



AARC COVER

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

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Club

ISSN 1067-0262

May 2018

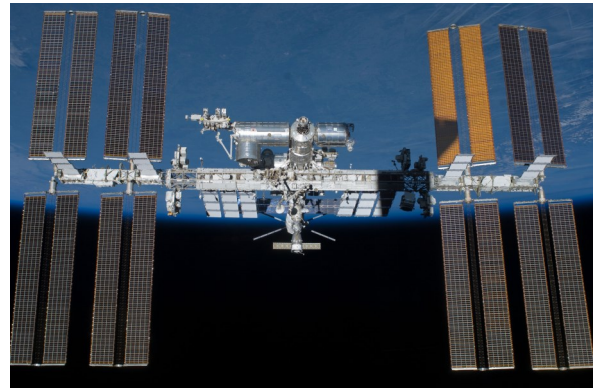
Issue 05-2018

A Near Perfect ARISS QSO

by Joe Fisher, K5EJL

ARRL Technical Specialist and CLM

April 17th was a BIG day for the ETP* amateur radio class/club at Liberal Arts and Sciences Academy High School (LASA, K5LBJ) and an even BIGGER day for Salado Intermediate School (grades 3-6). At 11:44:17 CDST the International Space Station appeared over the horizon to the southwest of Salado and remained "visible" for ~10 minutes. The LASA program with a few stalwart helpers had set up two, count 'em two, stations (main and backup) to make a 2m FM QSO.



NASA's Steve Smith, Education Coordinator, gave a preliminary talk to about 600 students, faculty and parents about space travel and NASA

(continued on page 4)

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) | Newslite | 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+ |

In This Issue

| ARTICLES | Page(s) |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Ham Exam Results | 2 |
| Club Info | 3 |
| Cover Article (cont.) | 4 |
| Hints -n- Tips | 5 |
| Over the WWWaves | " |
| HOTM | " |
| President's Corner | 6 |
| Just For Fun | 7 |
| Meeting Minutes | 8 |
| AARC Meeting info, | 9 |
| Meetings, Calendar, | " |
| Upcoming Exams | " |

Ham Radio Exams Results

The following are the results of the ARRL VE test session held on April 7th, 2018 at Bethany United Methodist Church:

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Kristoffer W. Pelley KG5ZEN Ray H. Worsham KG5ZEM

General Class Licenses Processed

Brian W. Hart KG5ZEO Patrick J. Lynott KG5GNV

Extra Class Licenses Processed

Jon C. Harshaw KG5YSU Jacqueline A. Zeppa KG5UCC

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Gene Hinkle K5PA Mark Hunt K5NM Arlen Levin WA6AUF
Joe Makeever W5HS Jim Matthews KG5QFD Steve Schreiber KG5LAA

Next ARRL VE Test Sessions

May 5th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204
June 2nd - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS
Joe

4-21-18

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

General Class

Scott Meyer, KG5RUE

Technician Class (NEW)

Mary Moore Aleksandar Nikolic Phillip Hempel
William Kirby James Houck

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Craig Bean, AC5KW Gary Popp, AE5JR Wally Marusa, K5WLY
Stuart Wolfe, KF5NIX Dave Dyer, AG5OS

Our next two amateur radio exam sessions will start at 2 PM on May 19th and June 16th 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 **craigmb5@gmail.com**



2018 Officers

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| President | Ruben Fuentes | WB5WTF | president@austinhams.org |
| Vice President | Lew Thompson | W51FQ | vice-president@austinhams.org |
| Treasurer | CQ CQ CQ | | treasurer@austinhams.org |
| Secretary | Carston Buehler | <u>KG5PAL</u> | 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.



(continued from page 1)

and its future. K5LBJ control operator Ronny Risinger, KC5EES, explained the radio setup. The school's principal recounted the efforts to apply for and coordinate the necessary resources for the contact. Then the moment arrived...

Well, I won't go into much more detail because a 40+ minute hour-long video of the event can be seen [here](#). (*An alternate, longer video is located [here](#) - 1 hour in length. Note: Both are links to Facebook video. You may need to disable adblockers and enable Javascript, depending on your browser settings. –Editor*) But you have to notice how well-organized the students were who asked astronaut Scott Tingle, KG5NZA, questions on all manner of topics. They had been studying NASA and space exploration much of the past school year and were really ready for the QSO.

A big shoutout goes to amateurs:

- Ronny Risinger, KC5EES, LASA teacher, who coordinated the QSO and did most of the labor
 - Mike Pendley, WA5VTV, who provided and operated much of the backup station equipment and antenna
 - Ron Parsons, W5RKN, who provided lots of technical assistance from long experience with satellite operation and ARISS* QSOs
 - Sankarsh “Bob” Rao, KG5VKF, LASA club member, who did lots of setup and “tear down” on the roof
 - John Hearn, KG5WHM, LASA club member, who also did an equal amount of roof work
 - The author and grandson Roy Ott, KG5UNU, who did a bunch of “tote-ing” of concrete block and poles and gear – whew!
- But all thought it well worth the effort. A lot of young folks will surely remember the event and, just maybe, they might pursue a ham ticket.

* (ARRL's) Educational and Technology Program

** Amateur Radio on the International Space Station

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.



Hints -n- Tips

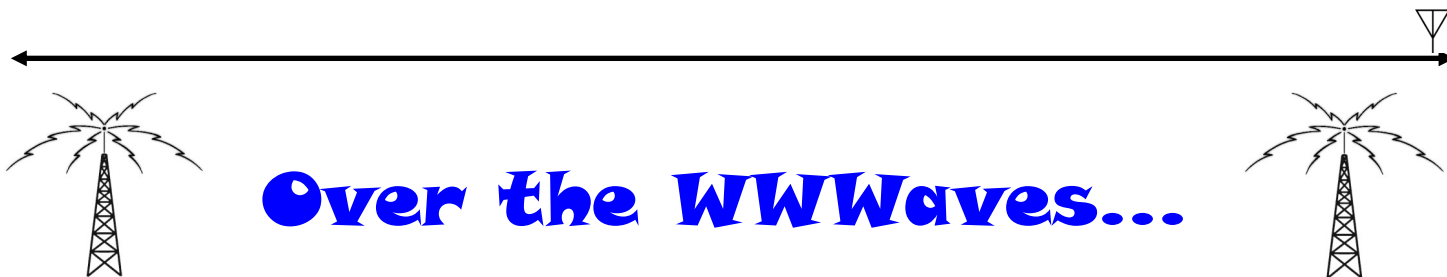
Keep Your Spare Fuses Dry!

A caution on cartridge 3AG fuses: Store in very dry location, as otherwise moisture could deteriorate the solder joints in the metal end caps and cause a fuse open circuiting.

Might be good to put a silica gel dose in a zip lock plastic bag with the bags of fuses. This will help lower the humidity in the storage location.

Had to replace the entire 3AG collection of spares at a TV repair shop I worked for as a Summer replacement. Some of these opens were not obvious if you looked in the glass capsule. Ohm meter on X100 was ground truth, to finding those fuses that looked good but were open circuited.

73-
Stuart Rohre
K5KVH



Low Loss Transfer Switch

A low-loss transfer switch between a 13.8V power supply and a 12V backup battery is available from <http://ki0bk.no-ip.com/~pwrgate/LLPG/Site/LLPG.html>

It uses power MOSFET transistors to handle up to 25A at very low voltage drop (<20 mv). Useful for those providing emergency comms from home.

--
DE K5GM, Pete

Ham Of The Month

As nominated and affirmed at the April Meeting.
Congratulations go to:

Roy Walker, WA5YZD, Ham of the Month, March 2018



President's Corner

May 2018

DE WB5WTF, Ruben Fuentes



March has proven to be a challenge for the club leadership as our beloved Treasurer, Jay (KA5OST) had to relinquish his role with the club because of time and energy that he needs to devote to his business, Eagle Office Products in Round Rock. Jay has been the club treasurer for the last nine (9) years and his work has been greatly appreciated. The quest is on to find a replacement for him. If you are good with numbers can keep the books, and are interested in fulfilling this role, please let me or any of our officers know. I'd like to find a replacement at our meeting next Tuesday. Please help me, our VP, Lew (W5IFQ), and our Secretary, Carston (KG5PAL) make this club the best that it can be.

If you're reading this newsletter before the next club meeting, which is Tuesday, May 1st, I'd like to remind you that it will be held at the American Red Cross facility, 2218 Pershing Drive, Austin. It will start at 7:00 and I'm excited for you to see the near-finished product in the emergency communications trailer that Kerby (KG5DLD) and so many other volunteers have been laboring over. We've made every effort to get the word out about the location change for this meeting on social media and by word of mouth. Please make every effort to be there. *(Editor's note: The location change is for the month of May only. We'll be back at the Applied Research Labs in June.)*

If you haven't developed the habit of reading the Austin **SwapNet Newsletter** published by Jeff (N5MNV), I would encourage you to do so - if you're into keeping up with the latest happenings involving the club, ham events, and other amateur radio folks in the area. You can find it at austinhams.org. Just click on the **News, Meetings & Events** button and choose **SwapNet** on the drop-down menu.

73, Ruben (WB5WTF)

Just For Fun...

Word Search

Can you find all the words listed below in this puzzle? The words are taken from articles, news, events, or *anywhere* in this newsletter.

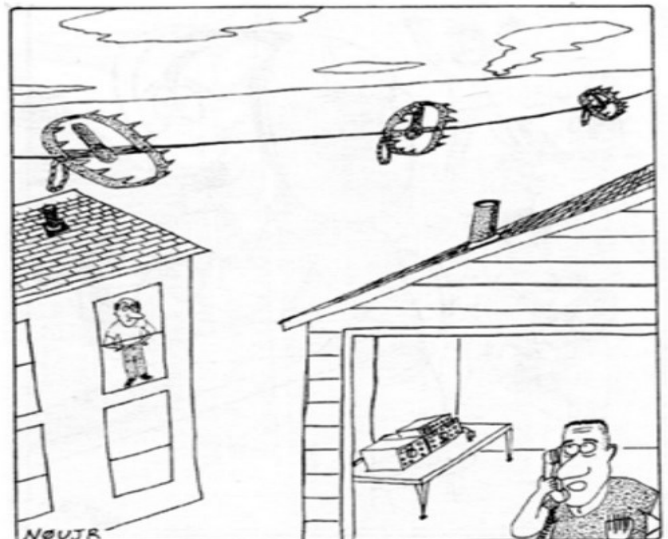
N S K E S S C V Y C K V I R S
 J O T A B V S A B A W N E E A
 W I B A I N D I G X T J P R L
 H H R J T D O B R E I B W U A
 Q G N N L I D I R A E C D S D
 W V N E Z D O N T I Q R B A O
 X A I O A H A N K N X U D E L
 E F B Y O T B I C G E R L R W
 M N T N I E C A P S Y V R T C
 S O B O P V E B S F Y C M S B
 N F N T S E F R E M M U S A Z
 H A A T T I E N Q E K V E E H
 L R E D C R O S S G F J S R V
 S R S C Z X D O I T F Q U L R
 Y J Z H S N H D G C K O F R Q

| | | |
|-----------|---------------|------------|
| ARISS | HAMVENTION | SPACE |
| DAYTON | INTERNATIONAL | STATION |
| FIELD DAY | REDCROSS | SUMMERFEST |
| FUSES | SALADO | TREASURER |

Solution to Last Month's Puzzle

R T T G R L Z C X U R T L S D
 S E R E D O N X N N A E B N O
 J C T A U X E P C I T D B N L
 E H H A I Z V Z A V S X A I U
 B L T O E L X B B E L Q X P U
 P G U R L P E J L R L F Y N L
 G I R V K A E R E S A D M A L
 W Y O V Y K R R W I N M T I C
 D B Z V K C A S B T M I G Y D
 U J S C L A B K H Y G H W E Q
 Y R R E B P S A R I T P P B Q
 U V M M F Y D V D N P J X F C
 E L E C T R I C I T Y A B L O
 F G Y I Z T D N B F K I U A U
 J V R S N I G E R I A B I C X

NØUJR and His Friends by Greg Trook, NØUJR



"I put up a dipole, with traps, like you said, but it still won't tune up right..."



This nice mobile rig for R7AB DXpedition was seen on Facebook [HamRadios group](#). (May need Facebook login to view group page.) The antenna rotator is especially interesting. No electricity needed! -Editor



AARC General Meeting, 3 April 2018

Minutes of the Regular Membership Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Ruben Fuentes, President of the Club presided and also took notes for the minutes, as the Secretary, C. Buehler was not present. Lew Thompson, VP and Jay Hoffman, Treasurer were also present.

There were 25 members, and 4 non-members (visitors) present. The visitors were introduced and an attendance sheet was passed around for everyone to sign in and document their attendance.

Old Business:

Emergency Communications Trailers:

There was discussion about the two trailers that AARC bought earlier this year. Kerby reported there were no leaks found in the 2nd trailer which is to be sold. It is ready to sell. This discussion included the suggestion of having the membership see the 1st trailer and the progress that has been done by Kerby Sprueill and all of the volunteers to get it ready for deployment. Before the meeting ended it was decided that our May meeting would be held at the American Red Cross facility on Pershing Dr., in Austin. Kerby gave an updated report on the trailer including the fact that there have been 575 hours of volunteer work put toward the work on the trailer.

Field Day:

The membership was reminded that Field Day is scheduled for the 4th week in June.

Ham of the Month for March:

Kerby nominated Roy Walker as Ham of the Month for March. Lew seconded the nomination and the membership voted him as such. Roy was voted as Ham of the Month because of the tireless work he has contributed in the installation of equipment and wiring of the emergency communications trailer.

Scholarship Committee:

Stuart Rohre reported on the work of the Scholarship committee. The deadline for the application process has ended and the finalists are narrowed down to eight. The committee will be making a decision soon on these finalists and the amount of funding to be granted to each.

Quarter Century Club:

Stuart Rohre reported that the Quarter Century group is no longer active. This group will be taken off of the regular meeting PowerPoint slides.

New Business:

There was no new business

Adjournment:

Joe Fisher made a motion that the meeting be adjourned and Joe Canfield seconded it. The meeting was adjourned and the membership turned to the educational part of the evening. The meeting lasted approximately one hour.

Education:

Lew Thompson presented a regular report on Solar Weather. His main presentation was on Solar Powered High Performance Amateur Radio Station. This session lasted approximately one hour.



← This space available for tidbits. Got some? Send 'em to editor @austinhams.org →

2018 - Calendar of Events

AARC Meeting Info

Tuesday, May 1, 2018 / 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Location: American Red Cross
2218 Pershing Drive, Austin TX 78723

NOTE: The location change is for MAY ONLY!

Meeting Topic:

TCARES Trailer Show-'n-Tell
by Kerby Spruiell, KG5DLD
and 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 - May 5th & June 2

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 - May 19th & June 16

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

May 5-6 - Maker Faire Austin

Palmer Events Center

AARC will have a booth with a hands-on demo of EM Physics and practical applications. Also, a live Amateur Radio Voice & Digital station. If you want to help, contact Jeff at N5MNW@ARRL.NET — <https://makezine.com/>

May 18-20 - Dayton HAMvention

Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center

120 Fairground Rd, Xenia Ohio 45385

Talk-in on the DARA Repeater 146.94(-) PL 123.0;

Alternate 146.985(-) PL 123.0. Dayton Hams also monitor 223.94(-) and 442.1(+). See SwapNet Newsletter for more info.

Jun 8-10 - HAM-COM is returning to Plano!

Plano Event Center / Return of the Outdoor Swap Meet

Talk-in: Primary - 146.720 pl 110.9 / 2ndary: 147.180 pl 107.2

<http://www.hamcom.org/>

Jun 22-24 - ARRL Field Day

Jul 7 - Texas City Hamfest / Saturday 8:00am to 2:00pm.

Doyle Convention Center, 2010 5th Avenue North, Texas City, TX 77581. Talk-in: 147.14 Mhz, Tone 167.9; secondary:

442.025 MHz, Tone 103.5.

<http://www.tidelands.org/>

Jul 26-29 Central States VHF Society, Inc. Conference

Conference to be held in Wichita, KS

Conference website: <http://www.2018.CSVHFS.org/>

Aug 3-4 - Austin Summerfest <http://www.AustinSummerfest.org/>

Apr 6-7 - HamEXPO! Spring

Bell County Expo Center- Belton, Texas

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

Visit <http://austinhams.org/swapnet>

Upcoming Meetings...

| May | June | Austin Meetings/Happenings | Time | Address |
|-----|------|--|-----------|---------------------|
| 1 | 1 | AARC Meeting @ American Red Cross (May only) | 7:00 p.m. | 10000 Burnet Rd |
| 22 | 26 | Travis County A.R.E.S. @ Applied Rsrch Lab | 7:00 p.m. | 10000 Burnet Rd |
| 24 | 28 | CERT Meeting @ TBD (see Link / Contact) | 7:00 p.m. | TBD |
| 28 | 25 | 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/>