

# AARC OVER

*Keeping  
Austin  
Wireless*

*for  
100  
Years!*



# AARC

Bulletin of the  
Austin Amateur Radio Club

ISSN 1067-0262

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by Michael Skurka, K5MSK  
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## April, 2019

# Refurbishing a CW Key

By Michael Skurka, K5MSK

Editor

I've always been fascinated with CW (Morse code). In one respect, I'm disappointed that the code portion of the Amateur Radio exams is no longer required. On the other hand, it's probably a good thing - otherwise I might not have a license yet! You can't combine the words CW and skill in the same sentence when you're talking about my proficiency... unless the word *poor* is the key adjective. At least, that's true today. In the future, I may end up surprising you!

Many will say that you need to face your fears, or to get out of your comfort zone. "Mic fright" has never been a fear for me. I'm no stranger to speaking in front of crowds - whether it's only a couple of dozen to several hundred people. I don't particularly believe in the Zodiac signs, but I am a Leo and at least the part about not being bashful applies to me now. As a child, it was a different story, but I digress.

I tested and got my amateur radio operator "ticket" in 2013 as one of the items on my "bucket list". My bucket list has become shorter lately, so I'm adding CW operations! Whether it's conquering a fear, or stepping out of my comfort zone, I don't know. Take your pick as it's a little of both. There's the fear of falling flat on my face and failing horribly and earning the moniker of "ham fisted". I guess it's a little like learning a new language, which is also on my bucket list. Both will require a dedication of time and practice to become proficient. Tools will help me succeed in both. For languages, I have some audio learning lessons. For CW, there are audio lessons and interactive applications.

I figured something else will also encourage me along. I bought a pre-owned (*used*) CW key! I found one I liked on eBay at a price that seemed fair compared to other online sales prices. I picked a **Bencher BY-1** (iambic paddle) with the black base. Wow! I didn't realize how heavy these things are! Of course, it makes sense, since the operator will be slinging dits and dahs back and forth repeatedly. :) It really helps to have a sturdy base so it will stay put on the workspace. The problem is, this one wasn't staying put. The rubber feet on the base were aged and had become quite hard and slick. That's just not going to work. The paddles were also a little bent, possibly from getting jostled in shipping. Okay... Time to clean this guy up, straighten the paddles, and a fix those rubber feet.

I took pictures of the key before I disassembled everything. Those might come in handy putting it back together! Everything got a good cleaning and polishing. I like Mother's Professional Rubbing Compound for polishing. I've used it for years on numerous other projects and it was perfect for getting a nice shine on the key.

Being careful to not scratch them, the paddles were easy enough to straighten. Now that the mechanical parts were clean, I reassembled the key. Yay! I didn't need the photos I took earlier. The key really is easy enough to figure out how to assemble. I did some research on adjusting the paddles for best operation. I loosened the screws, adjusted everything to my liking and tightened the screws. The paddle action is now smooth and it's time to test. My Yaesu FTdx1200 has a built-in keyer and it's perfect for testing. Switch over to monitor mode so no RF is generated and you've got a very nice code practice oscillator with a *built-in decoder*! That decoder lets me see how bad I really am! LOL

But wait! The cord is too short for my setup and it's old and "crusty". Yuck! It's time to replace the cable. I had read about someone using 3-strand paracord to make headphone cords and I thought I'd apply that concept to my paddle cable(s). I have some silicone wire that's perfect for the job. It's very flexible and will likely last a lifetime. So I pulled out a hank of regular paracord and removed the 7 strands of nylon string from the center. This is going to make a really nice cable sheath! After singeing the paracord so it wouldn't unravel, I started shoving the silicone wire into the paracord sheath. Darn! It's getting stuck. I need something to pull it through. But what can I push through that's not going to get stuck? Got it! I have some 12-gauge aluminum wire I'm going to use on an antenna project. It's stiff and easy to guide through the sheath. I cut an appropriate length and rounded and smoothed the end I was going to push through.

That was easy! I taped the silicone wire to the end of the aluminum guide wire and slowly pulled the wires into the sheath. I left a few extra inches on each end for connectors. I attached the 1/4" stereo phone plug on one end and the eye terminals on the other. I screwed the terminals to the Bencher base and .... (pictures follow on page 4)

(Continued on page 4)

# HAM RADIO TEST RESULTS

**AARC would like to congratulate the following individuals on their accomplishments!**

The following are the results of the ARRL VE test session held on March 2nd, 2019 at Bethany United Methodist Church:

## Technician Class Licenses Processed

Anonymous	Mark O. Bengston KI5DRG	Daniel G. McClave KI5DRJ
Randy H. Tiffany KC3NAG	James R. Watson KI5DRH	

## General Class License Processed

David C. Anderson KI5DRI	Eric A. Bowen KI5DDP	Richard L. Caponigro KI5DRE
Kevin G. Cawley KI5DRF	Richard L. Lamb KN4SOW	David A. Liu KI5DDL
David R. Marquardt KI5DRK	Joseph M. Surls KI5DDO	Trista R. Taulu KI5DDM

## Extra Class Licenses Processed

Matthew L. Domsch N5MLD	Gregory A. Hubbard KB5ZZT	Steven C. Long KI5AVF
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## Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Dave Anderton AE5XY	Gary Becker AF5QB	Larry Gunter WB5BEK
Ted Iglehart KF5END	Jim Kinter K5KTF	Joe Makeever W5HS

## Next ARRL VE Test Sessions

April 13th\* - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Building, Room 206/207  
May 4th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Building, Room 206/207

\*NOTE: The April test date is not on the first Saturday.

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS

Joe

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3/17/19

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our March 16, 2019 session:

## Amateur Extra Class

Stephen Pavlik, KF5ZRP

## General Class

Brian Barker, KG4EFK	Tyler Stence (NEW)	Jason Knobloch KG5DRT	Benjamin Schneider (NEW)
Mason Barrera (NEW)	David Karoly (NEW)	Vishwa Aduru (NEW)	

## Technician Class

Shane McKenzie	Ryan Dirker	Francesco Lopez	Kyle McClintock
Robert Cox			

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Craig Bean, AC5KW	Gary Popp, AE5JR	David Glosson, N5DPG	Micah Kemp, AG5SJ
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Our next two amateur radio exam sessions will start at 2 PM on April 20th and May 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.

For additional information regarding our amateur radio examination sessions, please contact Craig, AC5KW at (512) 474-6443 or by e-mail to [craigmb5 /at/ gmail.com](mailto:craigmb5@at@gmail.com)

## Refurbishing a CW Key

Here's the new cord attached to the Bencher base:



I like it! Yes. It's really orange. I need cables that won't get lost when I move them around. :)

After reading the manual and figuring out how my key is wired, set the controls properly and the display to CW decode mode. I then connected to the FTdx1200, and started playing.

-. - ..... -- ... -. - and the decoder confirmed that I could send my call sign at 15 wpm. Woo-hoo! A small victory. Let's try it on my other HF rig (Yaesu FT-991A). Uh-oh... A problem. It uses a stereo 3.5-mm jack. Well... My 1/4" plug just isn't going to fit – regardless of the size of hammer I use. ;-)

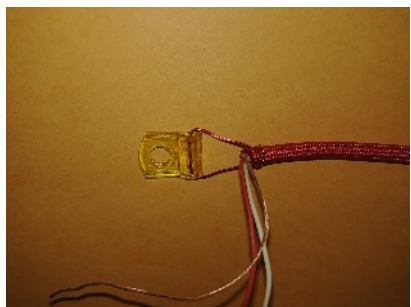
In my normal *over-achiever* mode, I decided not to use an adapter. Instead, I wired up yet another new cable for the Bencher. This one has a 3.5-mm *jack* instead of a 1/4" *plug*.



Instead of *creating* a cable and soldering a 3.5-mm inline jack, I cheated and took a M-to-F extension cable and whacked off the M end. I stripped about 4-inches of the insulation, and slid some more paracord over the cable. I threaded a small piece of 22-gauge magnet wire through the end of the paracord. This is where the cable will connect to the Bencher key. This is my version of strain relief and it worked great!



I looped the strain relief through the plastic holder for the hex key (used for paddle adjustments). Everything was then reconnected to their appropriate screws. And the project is now complete!



Now I can use a standard 3.5-mm M-M cable for the FT-897D. And a new 3.5-mm M to 1/4" M for the FTdx1200.

Oh... What about the hard rubber feet? Yeah. I could have just bought new rubber feet. But that's not what an over-achiever does! I found my can of *Plasti-Dip* (used to coat handles of tools to make them non-slip) and coated each of the feet. Several coats did the trick. Now the rubber feet *really* hold the Bencher key to the bench.

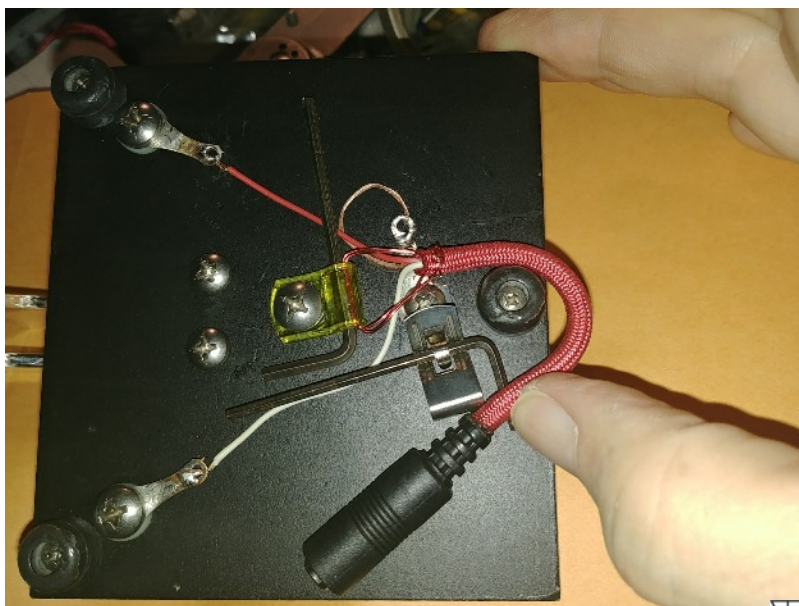
The inter-changeable cables make this a very versatile key. I've already added a similar jack on my old Radio Shack straight key and all the cables are perfect and interchangeable for it, too!

With some practice, I can now send CQ CQ CQ DE K5MSK K5MSK K5MSK K at about 20wpm. Now I just need to learn *the rest of the alphabet!* Wish me luck!

73 DE K5MSK

[Editor's note: If you have any (re)build projects you'd like to share, send them over to me at:

**editor [at] austinhams.org**  
Other articles are welcome,too!]



## AARC Meeting Info

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 / 7:00pm to 9:00pm

**Location:** Applied Research Laboratories  
10000 Burnet Rd., Austin TX 78758

### Main Presentation

*FT-8 Tutorial/Ops. Intro to FT-8 digital mode  
by John Paul (JP) KG5ZZB*

### **Solar Wx Summary**

by Lew Thompson, W5IFQ

## Upcoming Amateur Exams: 2019

**ARRL VEC - April 13<sup>th</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup>**  
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 - April 20<sup>th</sup> and May 18<sup>th</sup>**  
2 p.m. In Room 118, Fleck Hall,  
St. Edwards University. \$14 fee.  
For more info, contact:  
Craig, AC5KW [at] ARRL.net

## 2019 - Calendar of Events

### **Apr 6 – Belton HamEXPO! Spring**

Bell County Expo Center- Belton, Texas  
Admission Fee \$5 per person, includes one free raffle  
ticket (\$2 value). Children under 12 free.  
<http://www.tarc.org/hamexpo>

### **Apr 10 – TCARES Field Exercise at Camp Swift**

Participate with multi-agency, field operation groups using  
ICS principles and functions. Simulate the actions necessary  
for emergency response and interoperability.  
Contact: Kerby, KG5DLD, kerbyray [at] yahoo.com

### **Apr 13-14 – Texas State Parks On The Air - TSPOTA**

See what Texas Parks & Wildlife has posted:  
<http://www.tspota.org/>  
AARC & TCARES are planning on activating McKinney Falls  
State Park

### **Apr 27 – ARRL North Texas Mentorfest**

Location: Hella Shrine Temple 2121 Rowlett Road Garland,  
TX 75040 / Sponsor: ARRL North Texas Section, Hella Hams  
Amateur Radio Unit / Contact: Bill AC5BC Phone: 214-500-  
3472 Email: ac5bc2 [at ] verizon.net  
Website: <http://www.arrlntx.org/mentorfest>

### **Apr 27-28 – MS150 HOU-LaGrange-ATX(COTA) bike ride**

Mike Firenza 713-504-1775 michaelfirenza [at] att.net

### **Apr 28 – TCARES deploys to support MS150 bike ride**

Location: COTA. Controlling the safe entry, unload and de-  
parture of (40) 15-passenger SAG vans, 8 buses, and relat-  
ed box trucks. We will use amateur radio, commercial  
radio, and a trunked digital radio.  
Contact: Michael, TCARES EC, KG5RXG [at] arrl.net

### **May 4 – Austin Mini Maker Faire**

Parmer Event Center, Austin TX  
Volunteers needed at AARC's Booth (4 or so, in shifts)  
Hands-on EM demos & experiments and a live voice &  
digital Amateur Radio station.  
Contact Jeff: N5MNW [at] arrl.net

### **May 11 – PARC Annual Swapfest**

Location: City of Amarillo Drainage Utility Dept 1900 Line  
Avenue, Amarillo, TX 79101  
Sponsor: Panhandle Amateur Radio Club  
Talk-In: 146.94 (PL 88.5)  
Contact: John K5IT Phone: 806-414-3926  
Email: panhandlearc [at] gmail.com  
Website: <http://w5wx.net/>

### **May 17-19 – Dayton Hamvention**

Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center  
Xenia, Ohio. ARRL National Convention  
<http://hamvention.org/>

### **Jun 7-8 – Ham Com**

Plano Event Center, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway,  
Plano, TX 75074  
<http://www.hamcom.org/>

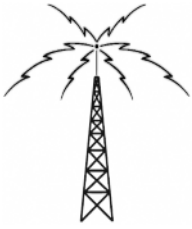
### **Jun 22-23 – ARRL Field Day**

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

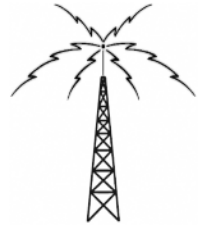
### **Aug 2-3 – Austin Summerfest**

Crowne Plaza Hotel, 6121 North IH-35, Austin, TX  
NE corner of IH-35N and US 290E  
Website URL to be posted when 2019 is updated

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



# Over the W/W/Waves...



## Navigation Problems? Radio to the Rescue! - DE K5FNI, Rick

Interesting application of radio to solve navigation problems. I recall hearing its name in the late 1950s. I didn't think to tie

## Amateur Radio Micro Nodes - Editor

Have you picked up one of those inexpensive MMDVM hotspots (JumboSpot or ZumSpot)? These things seem to be catching on like wildfire! One software is Pi-Star, available at <http://www.pistar.uk/> While it's not for the faint-at-heart and has a bit of a learning curve, it can greatly expand your base of operation to any place where you have an internet connection - including your cell phone with a Wi-Fi hotspot! After purchasing one of the hotspots and a Raspberry Pi (2, 3, Zero), the effort involves downloading the software, flashing it to a micro-SD flash drive, booting the Pi with the flash drive, and some in-depth configuration. One thing to be mindful of is the RX and/or TX offset of the MMDVM. They seem to vary a bit. Mine has a RX offset of -450kHz, while others have both RX/TX offsets of +500kHz. After it's all configured, then you have to program your rig (usually a handheld transceiver, or HT) to talk to the hotspot. I've heard of some hams taking a whole day of internet surfing to figure it all out. I got mine up and running inside of 2 hours, with no prior knowledge. So there's hope for everyone else! I've only used it with Yaesu Fusion at the moment, but plan to expand to DMR soon. And I hear that they can to cross-mode (e.g. analog/Fusion, etc.). If you've had success with any of these, I'd be interested in hearing of your setup. I'd love to write an in-depth article about the various units and how to configure them properly.

Another micro-node site for more info: <http://www.micro-node.com/>

## AI Development Tool – DE K5FNI (Rick)

This development tool may be a possible interest to you. Or, you may know someone that can benefit from it. If you're in anywhere near that line of work, \$99 for a development kit sounds exceptional. Let me know if it was useful.

<https://www.theverge.com/circuitbreaker/2019/3/18/18271329/nvidia-jetson-nano-price-details-specs-devkit-gdc/>

## What You Need to Know About Radio Telescopes – DE K5FNI (Rick)

Forwarded by a pal who receives the magazine. Some interesting info in it.

<https://www.electronicdesign.com/industrial-automation/what-you-need-know-about-radio-telescopes>

[See This Month In History on page 8 for another tidbit about radio telescopes. -Editor]



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## Reminder - Travis County ARES WinLink Wednesday

**Editor**

**WinLink Wednesday** (which has replaced the Sunday Packet Net) is growing! We appreciate all who have responded and are now participating in our weekly nets. Since you're not restricted to a single and specific time, participation is much easier to schedule.

Check-ins begin after the Sunday Night TCARES Voice Net (after 7pm) through Wednesday night @ 23:59 local time. Visit <https://WinlinkWednesday.com/> for more information and the latest, weekly training.

Any TCARES licensed amateur capable of sending and receiving WinLink radio email via VHF or HF is welcome to participate. Visit <http://tcares.org/tcares/index.php> and click on Weekly Nets in the menu for more info.



## President's Corner

Hopefully, you've kept your ear to the ground on what the Club has been up to during the last month.

First and foremost, the Texas State House of Representatives passed House Resolution Number 587, officially and publicly recognizing our Austin Amateur Radio Club for outstanding contributions to the community and for the **100th Year Anniversary**. I want to thank Club Secretary, Kerby Spruiell (KG5DLD) for spearheading this project and seeing this to fruition. I also want to thank Kerby, John Paul "JP" Pacheco (KG5ZZB), Joe Fisher (K5EJL) and Jim Bryce (W5HFS) for showing up at the Texas State Capitol with me on March 13th to represent the Club as the House passed this Resolution and recognized the AARC. [See [Page 1](#) and [Page 2](#) of the Resolution. -Editor]



Lori and Jeff Schmidt (KM5MQ & N5MNV) as well as Lee Cooper (W5IHC) have been working on and planning for a really nice celebration of the Club's 100 Year Birthday. Stay tuned for details on that.

73 DE WB5WTF



## Tax-Free Weekend

*April Shows Bring May Flowers* may be an age-old saying originating in the United Kingdom where it can be pretty soggy in the spring. But in our neighborhood, April showers are a reminder that we will likely have bad weather soon. Are you prepared? If not, the last weekend of April is the perfect time to save some coin on your emergency supplies. The State of Texas allows purchase of emergency preparedness supplies tax-free! **This year's tax holiday begins at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, April 28, and ends at midnight on Monday, April 30.** The list of eligible supplies is pretty good, and ranges from portable generators (up to \$3000, including shipping charges, if any) to batteries (AA, AAA, 9v, etc.) and even some two-way radios (less than \$75 each).

Visit <https://www.dps.texas.gov/dem/preparedness/emerPrepSalesTax.htm> for a simplified list of eligible items. There's also a link to the Comptroller's site for specific details on items and cost limits.

**Important note:** Most *online* merchants will probably not honor this tax-free weekend (e.g. Amazon). Your best bet is to visit a local *brick-and-mortar* store (those with a real store front).



# 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. Can you find them in this newsletter?

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

ANNIVERSARY  
COSMIC  
DIGITAL  
EMERGENCY  
HAMVENTION

MORSE  
PARACORD  
RASPBERRY  
SOLAR  
STEM

SUMMERFEST  
SWAPFEST  
TELESCOPE  
WINLINK  
WORLD

## This Month In History

**1914-04-06** – American Radio Relay League (organization for hams) founded

**1922-04-04** – WAAB (Baton Rouge La) becomes 1st US radio station with "W" calls

**1933-04-27** – Karl Jansky reports reception of **cosmic radio signal** in Washington, D.C. (radio telescope)

**1935-04-01** – 1st radio tube made of metal announced, Schenectady, NY

**1956-04-16** – 1st solar powered radios go on sale

Source: <https://www.onthisday.com/literature/radio>

## Action on the Airwaves

Looking for something new to do this new year?  
This is just a sample of the special events stations.  
Check out more [activities on the air!](#)

**04/01/2019 | The American Legion 100th anniversary**  
Apr 1-Dec 31, 0000Z-2359Z, W5TAL, Sugar Land, TX. American Legion Amateur Radio Post 942. 14.275 14.225 7.275 7.225. Certificate. Bob Hawkins, 311 Urich St., Sugar Land, TX 77498. [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) or [www.legion.org/hamradio](http://www.legion.org/hamradio)

**04/13/2019 | 7th Annual Earth Day Celebration**  
Apr 13, 1500Z-2000Z, W8PRC, Cleveland, OH. Parma Radio Club. 14.245 7.195. QSL. Parma Radio Club, 8111 Laumer Ave., Cleveland, OH 44105. Our 7th Annual Earth Day Celebration. Operating on solar power from historic, educational Stearns Farm in the Parma, Ohio town center. [Parmaradioclub.com](http://Parmaradioclub.com)

**04/13/2019 | USS Midway Museum Ship Special Event: Doolittle Raid**  
Apr 13, 1600Z-2300Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV-41) Museum Ship. 14.320 7.250; PSK31 on 14.070. QSL. USS Midway (CV-41) COMEDTRA, 910 N. Harbor Dr., San Diego, CA 92101.

**04/18/2019 | World Amateur Radio Day**  
Apr 18, 0100Z-2300Z, W2JLD, Rochester, NY. Nevada Amateur Radio Repeaters inc.. IRLP 9251 \*WORLD\* CONFERENCE ON ECHOLINK ALLSTAR 47620. QSL. W2JLD, 85 Amherst St, Rochester, NY 14607. This our 5th annual event. Send an SASE for a QSL card. [Theworldradionetwork.com](http://Theworldradionetwork.com)

**04/20/2019 | San Jacinto Day Special Event**  
Apr 20-Apr 21, 1500Z-2300Z, K5T, Nacogdoches, TX. Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club. 14.265 14.074 14.035 7.215. QSL. Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club, 167 CR 2093, Nacogdoches, TX 75965. All contacts will be confirmed via LoTW. QSL requests must include SASE. [www.w5nac.com](http://www.w5nac.com)

**04/27/2019 | Idaho Ham Radio STEM-Fest**  
Apr 27, 1500Z-2200Z, KI7KDB, Mountain Home, ID. Boise County ARES Group. CW, SSB, and digital modes. QSL. BCARESg, P.O. Box 1243, Idaho City, ID 83631. [www.idahohamradiostemfest.com/schedule.html](http://www.idahohamradiostemfest.com/schedule.html)





## Upcoming Meetings...

Apr	May	Austin Meetings/Happenings	Time	Address
2	7	AARC Meeting @ Applied Research Labs.	7:00pm	10000 Burnet Rd
23	28	Travis County ARES @ Applied Rsrch Labs	7:00pm	10000 Burnet Rd
25	23	CERT Meeting @ TBD (see Link / Contact)	7:00pm	TBD
2	7	CTDXCC Meeting @ Mimi's Café	6:30pm (dinner @ 5:15pm)	10515 N Mopac Expwy NB Bldg O, Austin

If your club is listed here and has incorrect time or dates, please let us know!

Email: editor [at] austinhams.org

## Periodic Events

Sun	7:00 p.m.	Travis Co. ARES net	147.360 MHz - (131.8)
	<b>*CANCELED*</b>	<b>Travis ARES Packet (*in UNPROTO mode)</b>	<b>145.730 MHz</b>
Sun	2359-Wed 2359	Travis Co. ARES WinLink Wednesday	145.730 MHz
Sun	8:00 p.m.	Williamson Co. ARES net	146.640 MHz - (162.2)
Sun	9:00 p.m.	ARO SwapNet	146.940 MHz - (107.2)
Mon	7:30 p.m.	STX ARES Net	3.873 MHz
Tue	7:30 p.m.	Hays ARES net	147.100 MHz +
Tue	8:00 p.m.	Bastrop ARES Net	443.750 MHz + (114.8)
Wed	11:30 a.m.	Ham Social Luncheon, Jim's	146.940 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	444.100 MHz+
Thu	11:45 a.m.	Lunch, Whataburger Oltorf & Burleson	146.940 - (107.2)
Fri	8:00 p.m.	6m SSB Net	50.230 (texasvhf.org/)
Sat	7:00-8:30 a.m.	Breakfast @ Waterloo Ice House	444.100 MHz +
Sat	9:00 a.m.	Chapter 67 QCWA QSO Net.	3.920 MHz LSB
Sat	7:00 p.m.	AARC Elmer Net	146.940 MHz - (107.2)
Daily	6:30 p.m.	Central Texas Traffic Net	147.140 MHz+

## THIS SPACE FOR "RENT" (aka *Call For Articles*)

Sort of... Rather, do you have any news of interest to the AARCOVER readers. Have you run across some amateur radio related news items? How about links to homebrew projects or new equipment?

I'm always interested in articles for publishing in this newsletter. Personal experiences are fantastic! Have you worked or played with a new technology - like the micro nodes mentioned in this newsletter? Or maybe you're one of the more experienced operators in our community. What changes have you seen in amateur radio throughout the years?

You don't have to be a Pulitzer Prize winner to submit an article. I'll take anything, but would love to get articles that are at least two pages in length (single-spaced). Photos are great, too! Please remember, any submissions need to be free of copyrights. Creative Commons are okay, but I will need references to be able to publish them with attribution.

*Thanks & 73 DE K5MSK, Editor*

# Minutes of the Regular Membership Meeting of March 5, 2019

## The Austin Amateur Radio Club (AARC)

Meeting held at the Applied Research Laboratories, 10000 Burnet Rd., Austin TX

The meeting was called to order by President Ruben Fuente at 1900.

### New Members and Guests (10):

Charles Jennings, K5TXE	David Marquarott, TBD
Mario Antonetti, KC1BMN	Lloyd Ewing, KF5RXS
Tim Goldenburg, K3MC	Thomas Bomer, KF5WZT
Al Keegan, KI5DKL	Tom Whiteside, N5TW
Alan Capewell, W1IPI	Gil Kloepfer, KI5BPK

Kerby ready the minutes from the February meeting. Stuart made a correction to the 2018 scholarships (\$18,050 instead of \$18,500). Joe Canfield moved they be accepted and Stuart seconded and they passed 36-1 (Lori Schmidt casting the dissenting vote).

Mark Jenkins gave the Treasurer report. There is approximately \$8,000 in checking. Although there has been some expenditure, incoming dues have maintained the balance. He also handed out tax deduction letters to members that made cash or in-kind contributions to the ECT in 2018. Non-attending members letters will be mailed.

Joe Fisher was voted **Ham of the Month** for his work as historian.

Jeff Schmidt reported on the problem with the 146.94 repeater hanging due to EchoStar flaw. Jeff also reported on the **Mini Maker Fair** coming up May 4.

Michael Marks reported on the Texas State Parks On The Air (TSPOTA) coming up April 13. A number of members expressed interest.

Kerby Reported on the **COMEX** exercise **April 9-11**.

Joe Canfield reported on the Hospital Drill completed in February.

Lew Thompson provided the Solar Weather report

Tom Whiteside gave the program on grounding for lightning protection.

The meeting adjourned at 21:15.

Kerby Spruiell, Secretary



**Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.** / PO BOX 4739 / AUSTIN TX 78765-4739 / Web site: <http://www.austinhams.org>

The Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (AARC) has annual membership dues of \$20.00 per person or \$30.00 per family.

## REPEATERS

AARC maintains the following repeaters:

Frequency (MHz)	PL Tone (Hz)	Use / Notes
146.780 (-)	-	2m D-STAR repeater [W5KA C]
146.880 (-)	107.2	Analog/Digital Fusion (Yaesu)
146.940 (-)	107.2	Most popular, TCARES WxNet, SwapNet
224.800	-	-
440.650 (+5)	-	70cm D-STAR repeater [W5KA B]
444.100	-	-
444.200	107.2	-
1293.100 (-20)	-	23cm D-STAR repeater [W5KA A]
1248.200	-	23cm D-STAR DD (data, simplex/Reversible) [W5KA A]

Persons using the repeaters are encouraged to join the club to help support these valuable resources.

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

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**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.

## OFFICERS

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\* Replace [at] with @ in email addresses.

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**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.

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### AARC Members:

For Changes in your ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER or CALL SIGN  
Contact: Mark Jenkins, W5MPJ / treasurer [at] austinhams.org  
Mark handles all changes for membership information.

