



May 2010 Newsletter

Vol. 18 Issue 5

NEXT MEETING

**Saturday May 1st at 7:00pm
at the American Red Cross**

The Presidents Soap Box

On April 17 the Austin Amateur Radio Club helped out with the March of Dimes "March for Babies" annual walk. The 6 ½ mile course started at Torge's Live and ended there. Along the route were check points where walkers could get water, food, use the portable restroom and if needed request a ride back to Torge's. At check point #1 was Dennis KD0CSY along with 2 of his sons. They also jumped down to check point #4. Vince KC0NPG was at check point #2, Dean KA0RMP was at check point #3. The two vans that were used to transport water to the check points and bring back any walkers had radio operators Gene KC0KSN and Justin KD0BFO coordinating the vans movements. At the start/finish location Erv WB0LSG and net control was done by Tom KC0VII. After all the walkers returned back to Torge's there was a free meal for all the walkers and volunteers.

They had 227 walkers at the start and over \$41,000.00 was raised by the event. This is one of those events that I like to work. You go from nothing to more radio traffic then you know what to do with then down to a little. But after the event when you hear how much was raised you think it was not that bad of a day
Tom KC0VII

Minutes to the April Meeting

The April 10, 2010, meeting of the Austin Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 9:00 am, by President Tom KC0VII, in Crane Community Chapel, Austin.

A quorum was in effect. Members attending: WB0LSG/Erv, KB0SPM/John, KC0YQU/Mike, KC0HXM/Jay, KV0VII/Tom, KB0SVG/Mary, N0RZO/Al, W0LUX/Jan, K0IHV/Bob, KC0CSF/Don, KC0AAB/Brownsdale Mike, WA0RRL/Carl, KD0CSY/Denny, KB0ZBU/Vern and Dean KA0RMP.

A motion to approve the March minutes, as published; was made by N0RZO/Al and it was seconded by WA0RLY/Carl. Minutes approved.

This year's SKYWARN training class was conducted by NOAA weather experts from LaCrosse, WI. The two hour evening session was attended by 137 personnel from various fire departments, law enforcement offices, civil defense, amateur radio clubs, amateur weather observers, and newbies interested in learning more about dangerous weather conditions. The next class will be held in Austin during springtime, 2012.

The March of Dimes Walk-a-thon will take place Saturday, April 17, starting at 9 am.

Ham volunteers are to be at Torge's by 8:30 am. We'll need 7 or 8 volunteers with 2-meter rigs.

A Fox Hunt will be held in Charles City, Iowa, 1 pm, Sunday, May 2nd.

The Austin May Fox Hunt and Picnic, with pot luck food, is being planned for May 22nd at LaFayette Park. Hunt begins at 1 pm, eat at 4 pm. Mary/KB0SVG will contact the Austin Park and Recreation office to reserve space for this gathering of hunters.

Purchase orders were solicited for the newly designed Club logo T-Shirt. The basic color is blue with white lettering front and back. See John/KB0SPM for more information.

FIELD DAY 2010 WILL BE HELD AT ADAMS, MN, FROM NOON JUNE 26 TO NOON JUNE 27. Our intent is to hook-up with the Albert Lea Radio Club, and other area hams who stop by, for a 24-hour operation. Get your gear ready, sharpen your operating skills, and be ready for a good time. Alternate site could be the park in Hayward, if available. More details will be ironed out at the next meeting.

Al/N0RZO made a motion for the club to buy a 500 feet roll of coax cable(ie: veriflex, or 213, RG8X, best quality, and 2 dozen appropriate connectors. This new cable will augment our present supply and allow for replacing damaged cables. Jan/W0LUX seconded the motion. Motion was approved. Mike/KC0AAB will research the market place for the best deals, then, with the approval of the club officers, will make the necessary purchases, with instructions for the merchandise to be dropped-shipped to Nystrom's Sign Shop.

APRI-FI continues to gain more attention to local hams. This mode offers weather stations at very low price. If you haven't visited the APRI-FI web site, there's a lot of useful information or just casual browsing viewing.

"MIX W2" is a new piece of equipment that reads digi signals, packet, rtty, etc. Easy to use – just place the microphone next to the radio receiver and it will print the signal intelligence; place it above and behind your left ear, and it will read your mind. Cost is about \$30 dollars; there's a free trial, too.

Needed: Volunteer Net Control Station for April 25, the Sunday evening 2 meter net. Do I see any volunteers? First one that shows up gets to do the honors. President Tom will arbitrate all disputes. Hi hi

The National Traffic System is alive and well. This high frequency net operates 7/365 and is available, at no cost (free) for you to use. Now is a good time to send congratulatory messages to the school graduates, birthday kids, old military service friends and relatives. Let them know you care about their milestone accomplishments. Contact Dean/KA0RMP for net frequencies (visit ARRL web site) or he'll help you format a message, then enter it into the message network system.

Tom/KB0VII and Al/N0RZO have agreed to be volunteer instructors for Basic Electronic course to help introduce community members or groups (such as Boy/Girl Scouts/4-H clubs) for future entry into ham radio. This will be a club project that can encompass the talents of all who participate.

There was discussion about activating an APRS digi-peater atop the High Rise for use with SKYWARN position reporting. This topic open for further discussion.

The next meeting will be May 1st at 7 pm, American Red Cross Building, 305 4th Ave NW, Austin, MN.

Al/N0RZO made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Denny/KD0SCY. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10 am. Peace and harmony prevailing.

Dean Johnson / Secretary KA0RMP

AARC Recommended Nets

Sunday Night – Austin 146.730 FM Net - 7:00pm CDT

Sunday Night – Owatonna 145.490 FM Net - 7:30pm CDT

Sunday Night – Albert Lea 146.880 FM Net - 8:00pm CDT

Sunday Night – Austin 50.400 AM Rag Chew Net - 8:30pm CDT

Sunday Night – Northern Lights 144.260 USB Net – 9pm CDT

Monday Night – North Iowa Net 147.315 FM Net – 6:30pm CDT

Tuesday Night – Austin 28.410 USB Rag Chew Net - 7:00pm CDT

Treasurer's Report

GENERAL FUND

Balance 04/03/10	\$1,113.52
Dues Paid	+20.00
Deposit	+00.00
Expenses	-281.67
Balance 04/23/10	\$881.85

Expenses were for return of 5 dollars for overpayment of dues paid and for repair of club HF radio.

MAINTENANCE FUND

Balance 04/03/10	\$4,189.43
Dues Paid	+00.00
Deposit	+00.00
Donations & Interest	+00.00
Expenses	- 00.00
Withdrawal	-00.00
Balance 04/23/10	\$4,189.43

Submitted by KB0SVG Mary Nystrom / AAARC Treasurer

Interesting SLOW CODE Comments

I want to know if there is a slow section of the thirty meter band. I know that on ten meters there are many beginning code operators and this seems to be absent on thirty. Thirty seems to be a band for the advanced operators. Thirty is my preferred band and several people have politely answered my call and I would get so excited that my mind drew a complete blank and left me unable to answer the call. I miss thirty meters but it looks like ten meters will be my home until my code improves to a reasonable point.

73 Kenneth KE4ETW

When I do CW by hand, I go to an unused frequency. Generally, I try to spin around to find slower speed operators, but I don't knock myself out trying to find people below some threshold. Pick a clear frequency and run with it.

In my experience, there is a chance you might take some abuse from US operators who have speed-related slices in some bands, if I understand how their licensing works. Certainly I have. But there are lots of US stations that will slow

down for you and plenty in the rest of the world.

Who knows, maybe you'll hear me ripping along at 8 WPM :)

73 de Darin VE3OIJ

Hello... You brought back some memories of my early days as a CW op! I'd like to encourage you to use 30, or any band you want to use. Here are a few things that will help you!

There are fast ops, there are slow ops and there are sloppy ops! Some sloppy ops are slow, some are fast, but they are still sloppy! Slow code, sent properly spaced is a joy to listen to, especially when compared to sloppy code that is sent fast. I hear lots of hams who are fast but can't send two words without making a mistake. Fast, is not necessarily better! Recently I worked a guy that could not even send his own call right.

He ran it --- alltogetherandihadtofigureouthiscallsignwithpencilandpaper! --- You get the idea! I hate code like that!

More advice, don't send your call on every exchange. The other op already knows it and please, please, please, don't send the other guy's call back to him on every exchange either. He already knows it! Doing so makes the chat boring and belabors the process. Take all the time you need, but send correctly! Practice doing this if you must. You are not trying to avert a nuclear war here, so there is no need to worry and get flustered. The other guy had to start some place and had the same jitters as you have.

Good CW ops like working new CW ops. Get used to it! The jitters are understandable, but get over it! You are a ham and that is what counts. You're in! If the other guy didn't want to work you he wouldn't! Going slow is not a problem, being sloppy is a problem!

Everyone makes mistakes, me included. So don't worry about it. Get on the air and call CQ! If the other op is too fast for you ask him to QRS. Take a deep breath, relax, welcome to CW.

73 de Ernest AA1IK/P

These were all e-mails that I gleaned from the 30 meter reflector --- John KB0SPM

Upcoming Club Events for May

Saturday May 22 --- Fox Hunt and Club Picnic at Lafayette Park in Austin

Date unknown --- Tower Trailer Set Up Day

AARC Club Officers & Volunteers for 2010

President --- Tom Crowley KC0VII

Vice President --- Mike Hansen KC0YQU

Secretary --- Dean Johnson KA0RMP

Treasurer --- Mary Nystrom KB0SVG (7 year hold over)

Web Master --- Vince Lynch KC0NPG (Volunteer Position)

Newsletter Editor --- John Nystrom KB0SPM (Volunteer Position)