



**Ham-Com Events: Open Forum 10:00AM
Board Meeting 1:00 PM - More details inside**

*CENTRAL STATES VHF SOCIETY CONFERENCE TO BE HELD
IN SAN ANTONIO, TX July 26 - 29*

The 41st Central States VHF Society Conference will be held at the Omni San Antonio in San Antonio, TX Thursday July 26 thru Sunday July 29, This annual gathering of hams primarily interested in weak signal operation on the VHF, UHF and microwave hams will feature talks and demonstrations applicable to our bands above 50MHz. An antenna range will be available to check gains of arrays from 2 meters thru 24 GHz and noise figure measuring equipment will be on hand as well to determine the performance of preamps for bands from 50 MHz and up.

A new feature this year will be testing of passive devices such as filters, connectors, relays, etc. The Friday evening flea market offers for sale a myriad of components and gear for the VHF, UHF and microwave bands.

Featured speaker at the Friday luncheon will be ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN. A special session entitled, "Getting Started on Weak Signal VHF" will be held for those who might not yet be operational on the VHF and higher bands, but are interested in delving into this exciting facet of amateur Radio.

Families are not forgotten at Central States VHF Society Conferences and the San Antonio area provides many interesting attractions and activities for the ladies and kids. Special tours and events are being planned to take advantage of what the Alamo City and environs have to offer.

The Omni has agreed to a very low room rate during the conference and for 3 nights before and after the Conference dates. For further information and a Conference registration form, go to www.csvhfs.org/conference. The site also provides information on hotel reservations. The rooms at the super low Conference rate are going fast, so those planning to attend are urged to make their reservations soon.

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(date after call is year of term expiration)

The Secretary's Report

Howdy folks,

Wow, has it been 2 years already? It seems like yesterday, you voted me into office. So let me ask you, how have I done? Please email me and let me know as I weigh the pros and cons of pursuing another term with the Society. Believe it or not, the August general meeting is just around the corner. I can say confidently that behind the scenes, I have streamlined many processes and cleaned up lots of Society paperwork. Yet, I am but .111 the cause and effect in the greater scheme of things. And good things do take time.

One thing I have learned these past two years is that the Society wheels do indeed turn slowly. While each board member makes up only 1/9th of any given decision, there are other deliberate circuit breakers that come into play where policy changes are concerned. I believe these are for very good reasons.

You may have read that the Society is now recording all general meetings for the benefit of those who are unable to attend. The Midland meeting is the first meeting to be recorded and you can download it at <http://video.txvhffm.net>. Please note that this URL does not have the typical www in front of it, nor does it have the .org at the end. In fact, the Society also has the .com variant of their domain as well. The video is very large so please do not try to download it via dialup. I can mail copies to anyone who sends me a CD mailer and a dollar per copy.

Please take a moment and fill out the survey you will soon find in your mailbox and genuinely invest some personal time and effort in your answers. If you are reading this newsletter and believe you were left off the survey mailing list, we would like to know so you may be able to participate.

And finally, what can the Society do better for you personally? Please take a moment to tell us, won't you?

73 de na6m

Mark Stennett mark@stennett.com



Notes from the State Frequency Coordinator

Paul Baumgardner, W5PSB

The annual repeater renewal process was very successful this year. We had some 72% of trustees submit renewal paperwork back to Zone Coordinators. This is tremendously helpful in allowing the coordinators to have accurate information to protect those coordinations from other trustees within the state and by border states.

Some statistics from the renewal process and annual submission to the ARRL for the repeater directory are: 29 mhz: 4 systems, 50 mhz: 40 systems, 144 mhz: 596 systems, 222 mhz: 90 systems, 440 mhz: 727 systems, 900 mhz +: 25 systems, ATV: 12 systems for a total of: 1,494 total coordinated systems.

In 2006, we submitted 1,670 coordinated systems to be printed in the ARRL book. The change over the last year has been systems that have not been renewed, coordinations that have been returned to the pool and trustees that cannot be contacted. We have made efforts to clean the data so that only active systems are on the list. This effort is on-going and will be on-going.

Another area that I would like to address is digital repeaters. We in Texas have been leaders in Amateur Radio Coordination for some time. We are continuing that in digital repeaters. We are involved in the national discussion as to what to do with those coordination, how many can be squeezed in the available spectrum and what the impact will be to analog systems. This is beneficial to Texas and the nation for the coordination effort.

We are very interested in the UHF and VHF areas that we have set aside for digital so that the experimenters can have a place to put a radio and we can see the results of closer spacing and shared channels. We look forward to input from both the digital and analog trustees as to how this is working.

I appreciate everyone supporting the Zone Coordinators in their jobs. Please keep the communication flow open.

Thank you and happy Summer!

Texas VHF-FM Society Standing Committees

Frequency coordination:	Paul Baumgardner, W5PSB
Database Committee:	Eric Schmidt, KA5WMY
Technical Committee:	Kent Britain, WA5VJB
Trustee (W5OGZ):	Jay Maynard, K5ZC
Newsletter Editor:	Dave Davis, WB5WIA

Frequency Coordinators

State Frequency Coordinator

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Euleess, TX 76040
voice: 817-868-7663
fax: 817-354-7736
coord@txvhffm.org

Zone 1, Northeast Texas

All bands except 440 Mhz

Craig Green - KV5E
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Mesquite, TX 75150
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Zone 1, Northeast Texas 440Mhz

Paul Finch - WB5IDM
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Zone 2, Southeast Texas

Zone 3, South Texas

Eric Schmidt - KA5WMY
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Zone 4, Central Texas

Zone 5, West Texas

Paul Gilbert - KE5ZW
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Mexican Liaison:

David Woolweaver - K5RAV
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Link Frequencies

420Mhz, 900Mhz, 1.2Ghz

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Notes from Zone 2 & 3 – Summer 2007

Welcome back to Summer! The time of the year when vacation time frees up for repeater projects, and the attention of hams in Zones 2 & 3 turns to the Gulf of Mexico. The role of ham radio in emergency communications has received much attention with recent natural disasters across our nation. Repeaters may or may not play a role in your emergency communication efforts depending on the nature of the disaster. Please take time now to dust off your portable gear so that we can help out our communities whether it be HF, VHF, or UHF. When the call comes to evacuate the Gulf Coast, you'll be glad you did.

One of the most often received comments that I receive is "I've have not heard the 145.XYZ repeater on the air in several years, why don't you do something about it?". This is an area where everyone can help whether you are repeater trustee or system user. The Society has a form available on the website for you to report repeater that are not on the air. If you know of a repeater that is not on the air, please go to our website, complete the form, and send it to your appropriate Zone Coordinator. This will significantly help us to redeploy frequencies that have been vacated but not reported. Help us manage this natural resource.

We have had several new coordinations since the last issue of the NEWS. Please note that a repeater is not listed as coordinated until the on-air status form is received after a construction permit has been issued, so please return your on-air status notification if your repeater is on the air and you have an outstanding construction permit. In addition to these new coordinations, there are currently twenty five active construction permit applications in Zone 2 & 3.

Zone 2 & 3 Newly Coordinated Repeaters between 2/5/07 and 5/6/07

Location	Output	Input	Call	Notes
Santa Fe	441.700	446.700	AB5GU	OT167.9
Timpson	145.150	144.550	KK5xm	I141.3
Corpus Christi	147.100	147.700	W5DCH	O107.2
Corpus Christi	224.340	222.740	W5fof	OE107.2
Laredo	147.36	147.96	KE5KAF	D-STAR

The following is the waiting list for Zone 2. The waiting list in Zone 2 is currently for 2m only, and there are pairs available on all other bands. There is currently no waiting list for Zone 3. A detailed explanation of the waiting list description and process appears on the Society website. A reminder that 145.250 is a shared, non-protected pair that can often be

utilized until a protected pair becomes available. Repeaters on 145.250 are coordinated, but there are no specific spacing requirements. Access control is required on the input and output to minimize co-channel interference.

Zone 2 Coordination Waiting List

	Callsign	City	Band	Application Date
1	W5JSC	Magnolia	2m	5/11/2004
2	KK5xQ	Baytown	2m	1/28/2005
3	KW5O	Conroe	2m	3/29/2005

Please feel free to contact me if you have any question or are interested in constructing a repeater in Zone 2 or 3. Phone calls and email are always welcome as well.

73,
Eric Schmidt
KA5WMY
Zone 2 & 3 Frequency Coordinator

Zone 1-440

It's not much, not much is going on right now. Working on about four little things is all. The D-Star is the biggest deal right now.

Paul Finch
WB5IDM

Ham-Com Events

SOCIETY FORUM

President John Johnson will host an hour long Open Forum during Ham-Com, in Plano, Texas, on June 9, 2007. The meeting will be in the Shady Grove room at 10:00 AM.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The Board of Directors will also meet at Ham-Com, in Plano, Texas on June 9, 2007. The meeting will be in the Shady Grove room at 1:00 PM. This is an open meeting and anyone may attend.

BOD Meeting 10 March 2007 Midland, TX

President John Johnson called the meeting to order at 1130 AM

Directors present:

Dave Davis, Hugh Davis, Rusty Herman, Jim Hester, Louie Petit, Gerald Richmond, Mark Stennett

Directors absent:

Bob Lobough

President Johnson presented the agenda as follows:

1. Directors Reports
2. Old Business Postcard to expired members Survey status Recording of meetings
Non Disclosure Agreement Database Committee update Coordination Committee update
Web site and online forum
3. New Business Next board meeting location Club Call
4. Adjourn

The agenda was approved by the board unanimously.

Director's Reports

Director Stennett gave the Secretary/Treasurer's report. The Society has \$5,419.86 in the general account which includes the coordination fund of approximately \$1,900. The life membership fund has \$29,628.31 and is earning about \$74 per month in interest. President Johnson asked if there were any known outstanding expenses. Stennett said that Michael Lay, N5PTN mentioned that he had about \$60 in expenses from coordination duties. Stennett said he has about \$700 outstanding from registering the Society's trademark. President Johnson added that he also has about \$200 in outstanding expenses to turn in. Director Stennett said that he has been organizing the Society's records and putting them into 2 inch binders. Director Herman asked about the trademark. Stennett said it was filed with the USPTO and is now in their database, that the Society has trademarked the logo and name. President Johnson said that he would make a note to have the logo modified to include the trademark notice. Director Stennett said that as Secretary, he continues to clean up the membership database, updating address changes and archiving deceased life members.

Director Richmond reported that he receives occasional emails asking if he is in Armadillo or not, likely related to the Yahoo group that claims to be the official Society group. Director Richmond stated that he wants to work on the club call trustee issue during this meeting.

Director Herman reported that he has also been seeing email asking questions about Society issues stemming from activity in the Yahoo group and felt that the board needed to respond to some of it, or if not, offer an explanation why not. President Johnson said that there used to be an email group set up for the Society on Texas Ham and that for a period of time, he was trying to respond to some of

BOD Minutes Continued



the questions and felt like it was a position where some posting were making stuff up. He said he reached a saturation point and considered it a losing battle when with anonymous posters. Johnson said he wants to put site up where members and the Society can communicate

people

and offered that anyone on the board who wants to address the questions is free to do so. Director Herman said he feels the board should address the issue of vote by mail and the elections with these folks. Director Stennett said that he feels the Society and the board should not feel obligated to respond to anonymous postings.

dealing
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openly

Director Herman agreed on the issue of anonymous postings but noted that other hams read these messages and in turn raise these issues face to face when he attends events. Director Stennett agreed that questions posed by legitimate members with names and call signs need to be answered and that the Society needs to get its own forum going. President Johnson said that the forum was supposed to be turned on by now and that the Society will get its own moderated forum soon. The intent of the forum is to offer a place where people can ask questions or complain about something so long as they are not done anonymously or bashing, hateful stuff.

Director Hester said that he has appealed to the membership to communicate with him in the last 2 newsletters but to date he has not heard from anyone. President Johnson said that he receives an occasional phone call and that in general we will only hear about complaints.

Director Hugh Davis said he looks forward to discussing vote by mail and that he has also seen the Yahoo group. Director Hugh Davis said he is in favor of the database project and hopes that it will allow the process of repeater coordination to become more streamlined and be able to better identify paper repeaters. Director Hugh Davis said these resources should be reissued to new trustees. President Johnson said that amateur radio has fundamentally been based on gentlemen's agreements and there are many reasons why a given repeater may have gone off the air, losing tower sites etc. President Johnson said that the prevailing attitude among the current and past coordinators is that the Society is not the repeater police and they need to take the signed renewals at face value. Director Hugh Davis said he would like to see a statement by the board at a meeting or in the newsletter to the effect that the Society is not the repeater police and if you are aware of any system that is not on the air to bring it to our attention. Director Stennett pointed out that there is already a system for reporting dead repeaters, a form on the web site. Director Hester asked if we ever receive any of these forms. Zone 2 and 3 Frequency Coordinator Eric Schmidt said that he has received one in four years.

The meeting was paused at 1030 so the board could sit in on comments being made regarding SB154 in an adjacent room. The meeting resumed at 1046.

Eric Schmidt continued by saying that there is an on air status form although he does not receive very many. He said that he does receive signed fraudulent renewal forms now and then, stating that

BOD Minutes Continued

the given repeater is on the air when it isn't. He explained that these are difficult to deal with because you have someone who has stated that they agree to the standards and that the system is on the air. The only way to deal with it is to send another letter asking if the system is on the air. Eric Schmidt said that the standards do not have a specific time limit for being off the air, and probably for good reason due to site losses, lightning hits that are difficult to predict. He said it is a more complex issue than what it may appear on the surface. Eric said that the first step is to get people to report systems that are off the air. He said he does not release the names of anyone who reports a system off the air. He stressed that the form needs to be used in order to document the process. Director Jim Hester asked if trustees are required to demonstrate that their systems are on the air. Director Dave Davis replied that there is currently no requirement that trustees demonstrate to the Society that their system is on the air. He suggested it might be time to change the standards of coordination a little bit to include demonstration language. After further discussion regarding frequency coordination and Society policies, President Johnson suggested that a committee be formed and asked Director Dave Davis, Director Hester and Director Hugh Davis to be on it as well as the entire frequency coordination committee. Director Hester will chair the committee. Eric Schmidt suggested that the committee be ex officio and not vote on any policy, that the board should vote on any proposed changes. Director Dave Davis said that the committee will not be making any policy changes. Director Hester agreed to come up with a name for the committee and send it to the board.

Director Davis said that the newsletter was 8 weeks late due to material delays and his work schedule. He said he believes there was a perceived delay by some members who were expecting a January meeting. He said that emailing the newsletter is easy so there is no reason why the Society can't send them more often. Director Stennett asked if the Secretary should handle the occasional mailed copy. Director Dave Davis said that would be nice and agreed to send a list of recipients to the Secretary.

Director Petit said he has been very busy taking care of his grandkids due to a death in the family.

President Johnson apologized for not getting the survey out prior to the meeting but that he too has been very busy with work.

Old Business

1. Sending a letter or postcard to expired members.

This action item has not yet been done. President Johnson said he would craft a letter to be sent to members whose membership has lapsed for 2 years. Director Stennett will provide the list of names.

2. Survey Status

President Johnson said he has crafted a survey consisting of 19 questions covering vote by mail,

BOD Minutes Continued

absentee balloting and proxy voting. He said he has received feedback from most of the board and will send a revised version out soon. Discussion followed concerning the method by which results would be tabulated. The board agreed to send the survey to current members as well as those whose membership has lapsed 1 year.

3. Recording Meetings

Director Stennett said that he has packed his video camera, tripod and other equipment for recording the general meeting.

4. Non Disclosure Agreement

President Johnson asked Director Herman to take the document and send it out for review.

5. Database Committee

Eric Schmidt said that he and Steve Hicks, N5AC and they are meeting once a week to build process maps for the database. Steve will then turn the process maps into code and that process will take about 12 weeks. The system will include membership information and the committee will meet with the Secretary soon to discuss incorporating that data. Eric said there are no plans to include any financial data in the database. There are no plans to include rf link information at this time.

6. Coordination Committee

Eric Schmidt said that there are 4 coordinators working and that renewals have been sent out. He said that repeater data was sent to the ARRL on January 29th. Director Stennett asked if there were any updates regarding the temporary DStar coordination issue. Eric said that one person complained about the decision but once he explained the situation, the complainant understood and was satisfied. Director Stennett reminded the board that there is a self imposed deadline in October, 2008 to formalize changes to the band plan.

7. Web Site and Online Forum

Director Stennett said that the forum on the Society web site does not work and that we have been trying to work with the site owner to get it going. Webmaster Harold Reasoner said that there were some changes coming as the web host and to please wait until the end of March to try to get it working. Discussion followed. President Johnson encouraged the board to keep Harold updated with new information for the web site to help keep it current.

New Business

1. Board Meeting

Director Dave Davis made a motion that the next board meeting be held at HamCom on June 9th, time to be determined. Motion passed unanimously. President Johnson said there will also be a general forum at HamCom but it is not a general meeting.

2. Club Call Trustee

President Johnson said that Director Richmond had recommended that the Society appoint a new trustee for the club call since the current trustee has been living Minnesota for the past several years. Director Herman nominated Joe Makeever as the club call trustee. There were multiple seconds. Motion passed.

3. Election

President Johnson said we will have an election at the summer meeting in Austin. President Johnson asked Director Hugh Davis to run the election committee. Director Hugh Davis accepted.

4. Bulk Mail Permit Renewal

Director Stennett said the Society's bulk mail permit is up for renewal and the cost is \$160. Discussion followed. Director Stennett made a motion to let the permit expire. Director Dave Davis seconded. Motion passed.

Director Dave Davis made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Director Stennett. Motion passed, meeting adjourned at 1207.

Texas VHF-FM General Meeting Midland, TX 10 March, 2007

The meeting was called to order by President Johnson at 1310. President Johnson pointed out to the members present that the Society is video recording the meetings and will make them available on the Society web site. President Johnson introduced the board members. President Johnson thanked the Midland Amateur Radio Club for having the Society at their event.

President Johnson called for Officer's Reports.

Vice President Herman had no report at this time.

Secretary/Treasurer Stennett stated that the Society has \$5,419.86 in the general fund, of which approximately \$1900 is earmarked for the coordination fund. In the life membership fund, the Society has \$29,628.31 which is in a certificate of deposit and is earning about \$75 per month. Stennett said that he continues to update the membership database, making address corrections and archiving deceased life members.

Newsletter Editor Dave Davis said that the Christmas edition newsletter went out at the end of February this year and that there are two more newsletters planned. One between now and Ham Com to give the minutes of the board meeting and this meeting as well as a few committee reports. The second newsletter will be the election special which will come out at the end of June. It will contain all the bios and information for candidates who have posted themselves for candidates. Deadline for submissions will be June 15th.

Director Petit said he has been answering questions from members about what is happening within the Society. He said he had hiccup in his family life for awhile so he was busy dealing with that.

Director Richmond said he had nothing to report, he is just trying to communicate with the membership. He encouraged those with questions to please contact him.

Director Hugh Davis said he was glad to be in Midland and announced that he was appointed to do a couple of jobs by the president and looked forward to talking with anybody who has any concerns.

Director Hester encouraged the membership to contact them with any concerns or problems and said that he and others on the board are going to be working on ways to be sure frequency pairs are fully utilized.

Vice President Herman thanked the Midland Amateur Radio Club for putting on such a nice event and for inviting the Society to Midland. He discussed with those present, some of the recent changes that were happening to amateur radio in general. He pointed out that the code requirement recently went away. He noted that frequency privileges changed last year and that most recently, amateurs could be affected by some pending state legislation. Herman said that the officers and directors need help from the membership cleaning up the frequency database. He continued that all of the officers

and directors contact information is on the Society web site. Vice President Herman discussed DStar and asked the membership to consider how the Society should handle it. He mentioned the survey and encouraged the membership take time to fill it out and return it. He also encouraged those present to take a look at SB 154 and HB 201 which has the potential to affect everyone who drives a vehicle and has a microphone in their hand. President Johnson echoed his concerns for these bills and asked the membership to stay on top of it and asked for Committee Reports.

Zone Frequency Coordinator 2 & 3 Eric Schmidt named the coordinators around the state and publicly thanked past coordinators Louis Bancook for his more than 10 years of service and Michael Lay for his contributions to the coordination effort. Renewals were sent out and most have been returned. The entire database was sent to the ARRL for inclusion in the ARRL Repeater Directory at the end of January. Eric discussed the board decision to allow for provisional coordination of DStar in the 146 MHz and 147 MHz simplex band. He said there have been some rumors going around that this was a change to the band plan when it is not. A deadline was set by the board to develop and implement changes to the band plan by October 2008. He said this provisional coordination plan gives trustees tie to experiment with this new digital technology. Eric pointed out that there is nothing to prohibit an existing trustee from implementing Dstar or P25 digital and that the provisional coordination is not permanent. Eric introduced Paul Gilbert, Zone 4 & 5 coordinator.

Paul said that Zone 4 renewals have not gone out yet, that he is getting them printed and stuffed into envelopes. Paul also explained that he has been checking 2 meter and 440 systems from a 300 foot tower in Cedar Park, using a commercial radio and all 32 tones if there were any questions and has marked those that do not respond as being off the air. He said that the trustee for any renewals coming back that are marked as on air that are on Paul's off air list will be asked more detailed questions and may be decoordinated. He said there are many paper repeaters in Zone 4 and he intends to clean them up. A similar problem exists in Zone 5 and Paul is in the process of contacting them. Paul pledged to stop tolerating paper repeaters in his 2 zones and to give everyone a fair chance. Eric Schmidt thanked Paul and said that he is doing the same thing in the Houston area. Eric reminded the membership that there is a form on the web site for reporting repeaters that are off the air.

A member asked when the web page database would be updated. Another member chimed in that he has been trying for 2 years to get a trustee name changed for 2 systems in San Antonio. Paul Gilbert advised that he remembered making the change. The member said he checked the web site the night before and it had not been changed. Paul advised that he is not in charge of the web site. President Johnson explained that the web site database is derived from the other database the Society uses and that updating it is a manual process. He said that the Society is working toward implementing an online system under which, this problem will be solved. Johnson continued that the Society would like to craft some more stringent guidelines for handling repeaters that are no longer on the air. A committee has been formed to take a look at this issue, with Director Hester as chairman. Director

Dave Davis, Director Hugh Davis as well as the entire coordination committee are on this committee.

Stan, KA5IID asked how difficult it would be to put an 'as of' date on the web site for the repeater data. Eric Schmidt said that information is already there. Webmaster Harold Reasoner said that entire database was put on the web site last April and that changes typically take a week to update. He said that he had not yet received the annual update for 2007 but expected it soon. Stan offered that it seems there was a disconnect between the coordinators and Harold on this particular case and encouraged the coordinators to work closely with Harold so these things don't occur with our trustees. Harold said that if anyone notices that their data on the web site is out of date to please contact their coordinator and ask them to send the update to Harold so he can update the web site. President Johnson said he had an email from a trustee in Zone 1 recently that his data was out of date and the changes were posted to the web site within a couple of weeks. He recognized this is a problem asked the coordinators to send monthly updates to Harold for inclusion on the web site.

A member asked why the Society doesn't use an online system to handle coordination. Eric Schmidt took the floor and discussed online databases. He said that with over 60 coordination bodies in the US, only 2 are using an online system. He said the point he was trying to make was that if it were easy, more organizations would be doing it. The member asked if the Society was that far behind the technology. Eric stated that it is never a technology issue but rather one of implementation. You have to get a set of people to agree how the many aspects are going to be implemented. The member offered that this is a matter of egos. Eric disagreed and said that we need to try to anticipate the need with such a system, that what we do is specialized. Paul Gilbert offered that this is an issue of people and is not so much an ego issue as it is one of human time units in sitting down to do this. This is all 100 percent volunteer. Secondly, you have security issues. There is sensitive and private information in the database that needs to be cared properly cared for. Eric Schmidt said that the database committee is making good progress on the project. Stan, KA5IID said that there are many access layers that need to be implemented and the process is not as easy as it sounds given the time and resources. Eric said the database committee hopes to have an alpha or beta product available for testing prior to the summer meeting. The committee is currently mapping out process flows and noted that over 50 percent of the current trustees do not have email addresses.

Richard, KD5URB said he is the NE Harris County Emergency Coordinator and that it has taken Harris County ARES 2 years to put together a 2 layer database using all volunteer help.

President Johnson discussed Old Business. He said that the survey is done and that the board will review over the next week and it will be mailed out over the following 2 weeks or so. Eric Schmidt asked if the survey will address vote by mail. President Johnson said that it has some background information, addresses vote by mail as well as other issues such as districting for director elections.

President Johnson discussed the Non Disclosure Agreement. He said that Vice President Herman has

taken an action item to run the NDA by the anybody who had objections in the past to see if this version is workable or not. Vice President Herman asked that anybody who wants to see a copy of the NDA to please contact him. Paul Gilbert said that he will not sign any NDA. President Johnson said that Paul is not alone in his position, that there are others who are not in favor of the NDA. A member asked if the NDA would apply to all members or just the board and coordinators. President Johnson said that it would only apply to those members who would have access to sensitive data within the Society.

President Johnson discussed New Business. He mentioned SB 154 and HB 201, and asked the membership to pay close attention to this pending legislation.

President Johnson discussed the upcoming election at the summer meeting in Austin. He said there will be 5 director positions up for election and an election special newsletter will be sent out in June.

With no other new business to discuss, President Johnson called for a motion to adjourn. A member made the motion and it was seconded. All were in favor, meeting was adjourned at 1401.

Election Notice

The annual election of directors for the Texas VHF-FM Society will occur at the Summer Meeting in Austin, in conjunction with the Austin Summerfest. The Summerfest flyer is included on the following pages to assist you in registering for the event.

We are now accepting nominations for the five director positions to be filled in 2007. Nominees are requested to send to the Society Secretary and News Editor an article of up to 500 words with their background information, and a picture if possible. These will be published in a special Election Edition of the NEWS around July 1. Note that your article will be published with minimal editing so use those spell and grammar checkers! The picture will be resized to approx. 150 pixels in height so a closeup is preferred.

Note that the rules allow for nominations up to the actual voting time in the meeting, so the list published in the NEWS will not be a final definitive list, but it will be a forum for candidates to introduce themselves to the membership.

Articles and pictures should be sent to the News Editor wb5wia@arrl.net and copied to the Secretary at sec@txvhffm.org. No proof or advance copies of the NEWS will be available to candidates.

AUSTIN SUMMERFEST 2007

August 3 & 4, 2007

Wyndham Garden Hotel
3401 S IH-35 (IH-35 & Woodward)

Austin, Texas

Continuing a Ham Tradition in its 24th Year!



Austin Amateur Radio Club makes the Capital City the place to be in the middle of the Texas summer. That's right--once again it's time for Austin Summerfest!

As always, we also host the Summer Meeting of the Texas VHF-FM Society, and this year, the ARRL Texas State Convention.

Check out
www.austinsummerfest.org
for late breaking news!

Schedule

All the activity is concentrated on Friday night and Saturday, to allow you flexibility in your weekend travel plans. But do come early, as things fire up at 6 Friday evening and go 'till 9, and start up again Saturday at 8 am, with swapping 'till 3:30 and dealers & sessions 'till 4:30.

The Texas VHF-FM Society meeting will run from 1 to approximately 3 pm, so mark your schedule.

Prizes

Prizes Galore! You have a chance at three Premium Prizes: Grand prize is an Icom IC-706MK IIG all-band radio. And our Featured Prize is an Icom IC-T7H dual-band handie. This year we're offering an Icom IC-V8 as a Bonus prize.

Register in advance by mail and have a shot at still another prize--an ICOM IC-T2H SPORT 2 meter handie!

With your registration you get one ticket good for Saturday's door prizes and the Premium Prizes, and you can buy more at \$1 each. Plus, if you rent a room at the Wyndham Garden, you'll get five bonus tickets for each room-night, up to a total of ten tickets.



Featured Prize,
an IC-T7H



Bonus Prize,
an IC-V8

The Rules:

We'll award door prizes throughout the day Saturday, until noon. For these, you must claim your prize within one (1) hour of the announcement. We'll post your name/call or ticket number at the prize drawing area.

At 1:00, we begin drawings for any remaining unclaimed door prizes. Then come our Premium prizes, culminating in the Grand Prize.

For the Premium and Advance Registration prizes, you need not be present to win. If you're a winner, we'll post your name and hold your prize. If you haven't claimed it by the end of the day, we'll send it to you.



Advance Registration Prize,
an IC-T2H SPORT



Grand Prize, an IC-706 MKIIG

Swapfest

For lots of folks, our main event--wall-to-wall goodies of every description, brought to you in carpeted, air-conditioned comfort on Friday evening and Saturday.

Rules:

- Full-sized tables: 6 feet by 30 inches. \$10 each, limit of 3 to a customer. First come, first served.
- AC power is available at an additional \$5 per customer, through advance registration only.
- We'll attempt to honor requests from groups of sellers for adjacent tables, if we receive your registrations in the same envelope.
- If you advance register for swap tables, we'll attempt to notify you in advance if they are unavailable due to being sold out (a rare occurrence). Be sure to give us your email address so we can notify you that way.

- Your table(s) will be held for you until 10 am Saturday.
- Swapfest hours are 6 to 9 pm Friday and 8 am to 3:30 pm Saturday. Opening times are for both sellers (for setup) and shoppers.
- Buyers and sellers must be registered at the convention.

Note: Due to limited hotel parking space, we regret that we cannot offer a tailgate swapfest this year.

Technical Sessions

- Coy Day N5OK will conduct his perennial **ARRL Forum**.
- **Joel Hallas W1ZR** is Technical Editor of QST. Hear him offer his expertise on wide-ranging subjects, including a description of the QST equipment review process.
- The **Central Texas DX & Contest Club** once again has an outstanding program lined up for us.
- Gerald Youngblood K5SDR gives us the latest on his **Software Defined Radio** project.
- Find out how to do "the mostest with the leastest" in our QRP workshop.
- New to Ham Radio? Jeff Schmidt N5MNV and Ron Hambric N5SBN have just what you need: A Welcome and Information for New Hams.
- The **Roadrunners Microwave Group** hold their annual meeting and host a session on the latest topics on the "high end."
- Keith Pugh W5IU leads a wide-ranging discussion on communications through **Amateur Radio Satellites**.
- Joe Fisher K5EJL, District Emergency Coordinator, hosts a session on **Emergency Communications**.
- **Weather?** Learn about the latest in forecasting technology, and learn about recent weather events with leading Austin meteorologists. Hosted by Troy Kimmel KE5BCK of Austin Radio and the University of Texas and featuring a host of experts from Central Texas.

Administration Matters

Exchange views with West Gulf Division Director Coy Day N5OK, Vice Director David Woolweaver K5RAV, and other ARRL representatives. Find out what's going on and offer your opinions and insights. The ideal way to get or stay involved!

And please welcome our special guest from ARRL Headquarters, Joel Hallas W1ZR, Technical Editor of QST and Managing Editor of the National Contest Journal.

As always, we host the Summer Meeting of the Texas VHF-FM Society, scheduled for 1:00 Saturday afternoon.

License Exams

An exam session Saturday afternoon will cover all elements. Bring a photo ID and one other form of identification, and \$14.00; if you're upgrading, bring your current license, any applicable CSCE's, and a photocopy of each. For more info email Larry Gunter WB5BEK at wb5bek@arrl.net

After the exams, Jeff Schmidt N5MNV and Ron Hambric N5SBN have just what you need: A Welcome and Information for New Hams.

Directions

The Wyndham Garden Hotel is at 3401 S IH-35 in Austin. Phone 512-448-2444. Talk-in is on 146.34/94 and 449.1/444.1 MHz.

Northbound on I 35: Take Exit 230: "West 290 Johnson City Bastrop". Proceed 1.1 miles. Cross over TX71. Right onto Woodward St. Left into Hotel parking lot.

Southbound on I 35: Take Exit 231 "Woodward St." Left onto Woodward St. Cross over I-35 and frontage road. Left into Hotel parking lot.

Eastbound on US290/TX71: Take exit "35 South San Antonio." Continue on frontage road under I-35. Left on I-35 northbound frontage road. Right onto Woodward St. Left into Hotel parking lot.

Westbound on US 290: Take exit "Burlison Rd Woodward St 35 South." Proceed 1.75 miles. Right onto Woodward St. Proceed .47 mile. Right into Hotel parking lot.

Austin Summerfest will be held in the hotel's conference center in the north-east wing of the hotel, to the left of the hotel registration desk. Convention registration will be in the hallway of the northeast wing.

Amenities

Come on up to our hospitality suite—that's where you'll find your old friends and new ones too. There are soft drinks and munchies on Friday night, and refreshments on Saturday morning. Saturday evening we'll serve soft drinks, munchies and eyeball QSOs lasting into the night.

Craft and Skills Events

Free! Free! Free! Did I mention "Free"?

This year, we have another "Make it and take it" workshop and it is also "Come and Go" from 9am-12pm.

You will learn how to make a Copper Wire Garden Ornament with marbles and dichroic glass...and take it home!

You may also participate in an Arbonne skin Care demo by Cathy Case, Area Manager. She will have sample products and you may register for free give-a-ways!

All are welcome, including children (accompanied by an adult).

Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 4739
Austin, TX 78765-4739

Non-profit Organization
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AUSTIN SUMMERFEST 2007



The Austin Amateur Radio Club presents:

The ARRL Texas State Convention

The Texas VHF-FM Society Summer Meeting



A word about our special guests...

The Texas VHF-FM Society is a group of several hundred amateurs with a special interest in the design and operation of VHF and UHF repeaters. Starting with a small group of hams over 40 years ago, the Society now counts as members the licensees or technical custodians of nearly all the repeaters in Texas. It is affiliated with the ARRL. The Society initiated frequency coordination in Texas. Today, it continues in that role, minimizing intercommunity friction and helping the maximum number of amateurs operate and use repeaters. The Society educates, mediates, and arbitrates all matters of frequency coordination brought to its attention. The members of the Society invite you and your friends to join us; we know you will find it fun and rewarding to be a part of this organization.