



# TARC Bulletin



W5LM Repeaters:

146.820- MHz (PL 123.0) — 444.700 MHz (PL 123.0)

www.tarc.org

October 2007

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### OFFICERS

**President:** Tom Olsen, AE5AP, (254) 791-5470, tomolsen@sbcglobal.net

**Vice President:** Eddie Huntsman, KB5UBP, eddie-huntsman@sbcglobal.net

**Secretary:** Larry Fuhs, K5LAR, (254) 947-9402, mesquite@vvm.com

**Treasurer:** Darwin Geiselbrecht, K5DOA, (254) 487-3167, k5doa@vvm.com

### BOARD MEMBERS

Myron Mesecke, N5TFK, (254) 770-0529, meseckem@vvm.com

John Dvoracek, KE5C, (254) 774-8376, john@ke5c.net

Mike LeFan WA5EQQ, (254) 773-3590, mle-fan@vvm.com

Steve Bosshard, NU5D, bosshard@gmail.com

### COMMITTEES

**Programs:** John Dvoracek, KE5C

**W5LM Trustee:** Ron Thompson, W5WRE, (254) 859-3000, rwthompson@clearwire.net

**Technical Director:** Charlie Schlieper N5TD, 773-0608, n5td@vvm.com

**Name Badges at Meetings:** Ken Baker KD5UAT

**Education:** Charlie Schlieper, N5TD

**Membership:** Darwin Geiselbrecht, K5DOA, (254) 487-3167, k5doa@aol.com

**RACES:** Charlie Schlieper N5TD, District Radio Officer

**Bulletin Editor:** Mike LeFan, WA5EQQ

**Webmaster:** John Dvoracek, KE5C

## It's October and that means its HamEXPO Time and JOTA too!

Someone asked if I ever get tired helping with TARC's HamEXPO. I thought they might have wound their resistor a little too tight. For me HamEXPO is a really fun event of which I feel proud to be a small part.



To my way of thinking, TARC really knows how to throw a friendly little statewide, national and yes, international party! It's nothing fancy but it's a special time. New friend-

ships are made, old friendships are renewed, and there might even be a little buying, selling, and swapping going on.

The first weekend in October, TARC will welcome almost 2,000 hams, families, and friends to Central Texas. Let's show them a great time. I encourage everyone to be a part of the fun of HamEXPO. We will need help on Friday afternoon, and especially on Saturday morning.

We need everyone's help to throw a great

*(Continued on page 3)*

## HamEXPO Is Knocking at Our Door



# Are you ready to make it happen?

### At Our Next Meeting

The program for our Oct. 4 TARC meeting is a "Show 'n' Tell," so bring your latest project, acquisition, or oddity and show it off. We'll also get final words on HamEXPO.

That's Thursday, Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Church of Christ in Western Hills, 210 N. General Bruce Dr. in Temple. Join us. Refreshments served and guests welcome.

### In this issue

Prez Sez — Are You Ready for EXPO? — At Our Next Meeting	1
Silent Key Notices — Key Clicks from the Armadillo	2
Morse Code is Alive — Selecting Ham Gear — Election Slate for '08 — Brenham 'Fest	3
Meeting Info	4

# Silent Key Notices Affect TARC in Recent Weeks

## Madie Elizabeth Eidson, W5DQF SK

Madie Elizabeth Eidson, W5DQF, 97, of Temple became a Silent Key Aug. 30, 2007 in a Belton care center.

Mrs. Eidson was born in Green County, Alabama in 1910. She graduated from Wills Point, Texas High School in 1927, and from the 4C Business College in Dallas. She married Merrill Eidson, W5AMK, in 1932. He preceded her in death in 1996. She was a partner and bookkeeper, with Merrill, in Eidson Electronic Company in Temple for over fifty years. Their claim to fame was the manufacturing of their quartz crystals—literally famous around the world. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Temple for over seventy years. She also was an active Ham and a truly kind and gentle lady. Madie is survived by her son Lamar Eidson and daughter Madiene Gibson of Temple, plus extended family. Memorials may be sent to the First Baptist Church in Temple. 73 Madie.



## Tom Vanderveer, KG5II SK

Thomas Roy Vanderveer, KG5II, 65, of Temple died Sept. 8 at his home after a bout with cancer. Tom was a longtime TARC member.

Tom was born in Heidenheimer and lived in Bell County all his life except for a short time in Houston and during his time in the Navy. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1962, during the Vietnam War, and was honorably discharged to the reserves in 1968. He received the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Good Conduct



Award. He received an associate of arts and associate of applied science in management degree from Temple Junior College and additional specialty training from Durham Electronics in San Antonio, as well as correspondence courses in nuclear physics, general oceanography, and electronic engineering from MIT. He was employed at the Teague Memorial Veterans Center as an Electronics Technician from 1974-1997. He was a licensed gemologist and was the previous owner of "The Gold Bug" jewelry store in Troy. He married Jennifer Carter in Temple in 2004 and was a member of First Baptist Church in Troy for many years. Memorials may be made to World Challenge Inc., P.O. Box 260, Lindale TX 75771-9989 or to Joyful Sound Ministries, P.O. Box 144, Woodbine IA 51579-0144. 73 Tom.

## Brad Allan Killebrew, N5IQ SK

HUMBLE, Tex. — A memorial service for Brad Allan Killebrew, N5IQ, 35, of Humble and formerly Temple was held Sept. 19 in Humble. He died Sept. 13, in Humble. Brad was born in Temple to William Lee (Bill) WD5ELK and Dianne Killebrew. He was a systems engineer for the Texas Network. He lived in Temple until the age of 10 and moved to Humble with his family where he graduated from Humble High School. Brad received a bachelor's degree from the University of Houston and was a member of the Institute for Electronic Engineers Computer Society, the North American Network Operations Group, and the American Radio Relay League. Brad was the youngest son of Bill WD5ELK a long time member of TARC and a Temple resident. Those who knew Brad will miss him greatly.

Memorials may be made to the Atascocita United Methodist Church Special Building Fund, 19325 Pinehurst Trail Drive, Humble TX 77346. 73 Brad.



## KEY CLICKS FROM THE ARMADILLO

...**John KE5C** says, "I don't hear a lot of DX on 40 meters mobile, but around 0850 a.m. this morning (Sept. 20) I worked JA1NUT [with a report of] 559 both ways while driving from Temple to Round Rock on I-35 (S5 traffic noise). I guess his 3-element [yagi] on 40 meters may create band openings?"

...**Joe Dorn W5VEX** will do VE testing at HamEXPO, starting at 11:00 a.m. He will continue testing until all applicants are tested or until 2:00 p.m., whichever comes last.

...**Ready** for HamEXPO?

...**Ron Thompson W5WRE** recently won the IARU HF World Championship Phone Only Low Power for the N. Texas Section Zone 7. This is the second year in a row for Ron. Great!

...**George Fremin III, K5TR**, from Austin (and formerly one of our own as WB5VZL) delighted us with his presentation on "Exotic Operating and Guano from the Southern Hemisphere" at the Sept. meeting. Thanks, George.

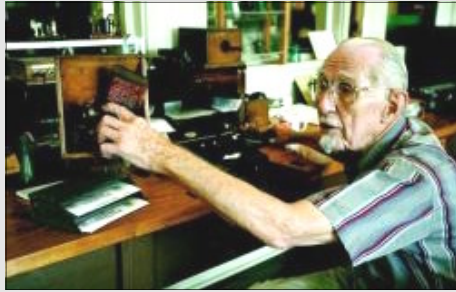
...**Most weekdays** and Saturdays, area hams meet for coffee at McDonalds' at IH35 and Adams Ave. from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Everyone is invited, so come on by.

...**TARC Net** — Mondays at 7 p.m. on 146.820 MHz (PL 123.0). Get the net habit. *Try it—you'll like it!*

...**See you** at the club meeting on Sept. 6, 2007.

## Morse Code is Alive

**Norman Reser works in the telegraph office at the mock Temple train depot within the Railroad**



**and Heritage Museum, demonstrates the role of Morse Code in telegraphy. Photo by Rebekah Workman / Telegram**



**Floyd Bumpus, N5EL, sits in the telegraph booth at the railroad museum. Rebekah Workman / Telegram**

## Selecting Equipment For The Ham Shack

By Larry Fuhs, K5LAR



There are many factors to consider when selecting a piece of equipment for the ham shack. Far too often a selection is made based on price rather than how the item will fit into our long term goals. If money and storage space are no object, good luck.

My recommendation for new hams is to find a good mentor (Elmer) to discuss your interests and goals. Borrow some equipment if possible before making a purchase to determine what your specific interests are. You want to have as much information as is possible before turning loose of your hard earned cash. Impulse purchases are not in your best interest. Do your research first.

Whether new ham or seasoned veteran, and you have access to the internet, you need to use resources like <http://>

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Nominating Committee Submits Slate for 2008

The committee to nominate a slate of TARC officers for 2008 has presented its recommendations. They have a fine mix of energetic new blood and proven performers:

For president — John Hobson WD5BSS

For vice president — Jerry Heitman KA5AIE

For treasurer — Darwin Geiselbrecht K5DOA

For secretary — Warren Rowe WR1TX

For director — Myron Mesecke N5TFK

Continuing directors are Mike LeFan, WA5EQQ, and Steve Bosshard, NU5D.

The board will have five past presidents—Mike, Steve, Myron, Darwin, and Tom (immediate past president) to help John Hobson see any potholes ahead.

The nominating committee consulted all board and many non-board members. If you are a nominee on this list please realize many club members already feel you should be in office. All club members are encouraged to ask your friends in TARC to support this slate. Finding **qualified** folks **willing** to serve and put TARC **first** over personal recognition (notoriety) is not easy. It's fairly sure that one or two folks who rarely come to meetings and who never participate in activities will nominate one or two of their circle of friends from the floor. But remember, the votes that really count are

those from the folks who really care and participate, and you already have those.

John Dvoracek, KE5C (Director 2005-7)

Oscar Houser, KD5DGJ

Anthony Mikulastic, WB5TTY

Nominating Committee

*(Continued from page 1)*

HamEXPO. Hope to see you there!

**Jamboree on the Air (JOTA).** *Want to have some fun helping kids learn about Ham Radio?* TARC will be helping out the Boy/Cub Scouts with this annual event on Oct. 20. The event will be held at the Copperas Cove City Park on Saturday afternoon from 2 to 5 p.m. It's a couple hours of your time, but it could be a lifetime memory for some kids. We need to set up 3 to 4 portable stations to cover the bands and get these kids on the air! Please think about donating some of your time and op skills and be part of the fun of sharing your hobby with some very appreciative kids. —73, Tom AE5AP

**On Oct. 27 the annual Brenham Swapmeet, sponsored by Brenham Amateur Radio Club W5AUM, will be held at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Brenham. No admission fee is charged. Sales tables cost \$10 each, and electricity is available. Raffle prizes will be awarded, and freewill-donation concessions will be provided. Please come to find great deals or just eyeball QSOs! For information, e-mail James Nabors KD5HRE at <kd5hre@yahoo.com>.**

# TARC Bulletin

Temple Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 616  
Temple, TX 76503

**Temple Amateur Radio Club meets the first Thursday of each month from 7:00-9:00 p.m., at the Church of Christ in Western Hills, 210 N. General Bruce Dr., in Temple—across I-35 from La Quinta Motel. Refreshments are served, and guests are invited and welcome!**

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**TARC Bulletin — October 2007 — page 4**

*(Continued from page 3)*

[www.eham.net/reviews/](http://www.eham.net/reviews/) to gather information. Consider the total number of reviews to ensure you have a good sampling for the piece of equipment you are interested in. I tend to throw out some of the highest and lowest ratings to eliminate a certain degree of bias. If all of the reviews are primarily high, you can reasonably assume that a piece of gear is worthy of your consideration. If there is a recurring problem brought up, that sends a red flag up for me.

A brand new piece of equipment can have an electrical problem just like a piece of used gear, and people are quick to review new items on eHam. You want to be armed with as much information as possible.

Hamfests are one source of new and used items. Do your homework first so you don't pay too much. Assume that used equipment at a hamfest may have some type of problem. The favorite internet auction site is a good place to find some of the rarer equipment, but expect to pay top dollar to compete in this market place. Shipping is expensive, and increases the chance equipment will be damaged.

Building some of your equipment is still a possibility. There

are a number of web sites that provide everything from schematics to complete kits. You can purchase low power (QRP) kits that are relatively simple to put together. Construction with tubes still has a very strong following today, everything from single tube transmitters or receivers to high power amplifiers. Some find the challenge of building with surface mounted devices (SMDs) very enjoyable, but it requires specialized equipment and a pair of good eyes and magnifiers.

If you have made the decision to purchase new, you have plenty of options. Why not support our new equipment dealers at Belton HamEXPO? See you there on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Come early, stay late and hope for good weather. 73, K5LAR

