

# Amateur radio club offers chance to "ham"

by Robert McGlohon

**Battalion Staff**  
Since its beginnings in the early 1900s, amateur radio has grown with remarkable speed and energy. And since 1925, the Memorial Student Center Amateur Radio Committee, W5AC, has been a part of that growth.

In the early days of amateur radio, a few people with home-made radios communicated through morse code.

Today, amateur radio, more

commonly known as ham radio, involves a wide variety of activities.

W5AC, due to the diverse interest of its members, is involved in many of these areas of amateur radio.

Ragchewing (just talking) is one of their more popular activities, says W5AC chairman Mark Belcher. And if you're a ham (an amateur radio operator), you can talk with other hams all over the world. W5AC has made contacts with almost every country in the world.

W5AC also has been active in public service, Belcher said.

The committee provided emergency communications during the 1979 Wichita Falls tornado and the 1976 Guatemala earthquake. W5AC also pro-

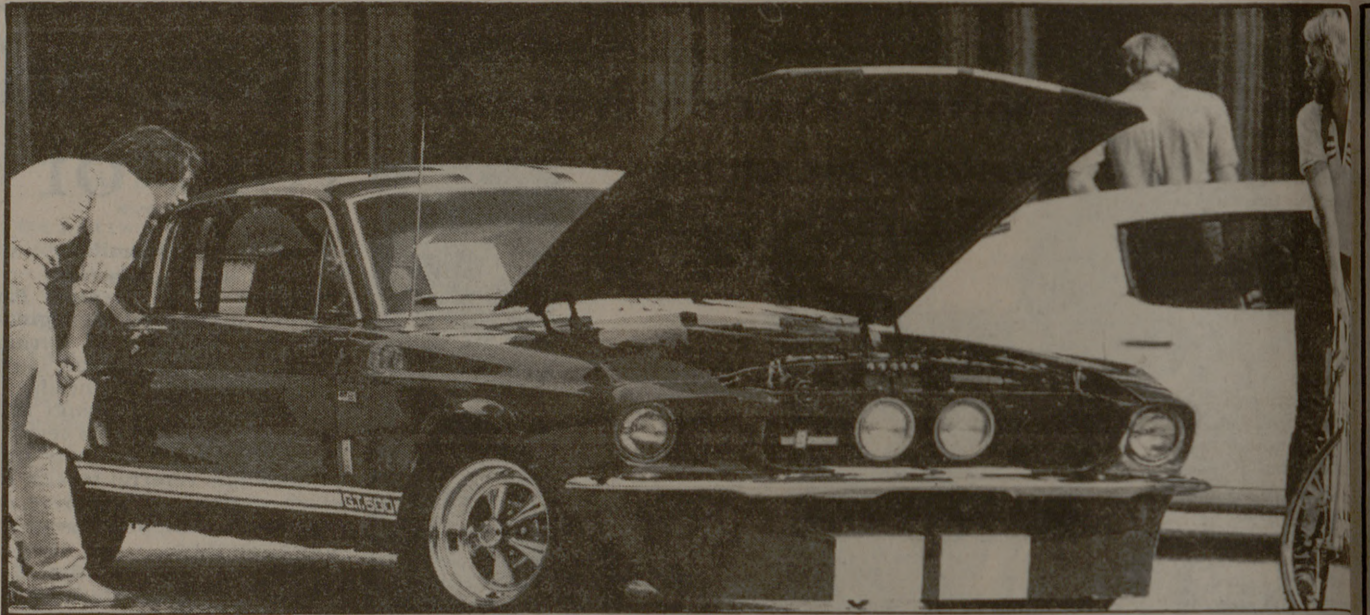
vides communications for many local events, including the annual Aggie bonfire.

W5AC's "shack" in the basement of the MSC is equipped with the latest in communication equipment.

It has two complete high frequency stations which can reach around the world, very high frequency radios for local communication, radioteletype, antennas on the MSC roof and a North Star microcomputer. Becoming an amateur radio operator is no simple matter.

Amateur radio operators must be licensed. Licensing requires a general knowledge of radio communication theory and morse code. W5AC provides free weekly licensing classes to its members.

The committee will hold its first meeting tonight at 7:30 in 140 MSC.



Checking it out

staff photo by David

The display of cars outside the MSC caught a lot of peoples' eyes Wednesday afternoon. Dean Shackfield and Don Wolf were just two of the many people who had to get a closer look at what was under the hood and what was inside.

Shackfield, a sophomore from Ft. Worth studying finance, peers inside the car while Wolf, a graduate student from College Station studying Chemical Engineering, gets an overall view of the engine.

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7:25-9:50  
Star Wars  
7:10-9:40

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**An Officer and a Gentleman**  
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Monty Python  
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Thursday September 9  
**Rudder Theatre \$1.50**  
7:30 & 10:00

# Aggie war-gamer's group splits into separate clubs

by Simon Gonzalez

**Battalion Reporter**  
Students who enjoy playing simulated war games now have two committees to choose from since Gromets, the section of the MSC Outdoor Recreation Committee that deals with board games, has been split into two specialized groups.

The new committees are Fantasy Role Players and Gamers. FRP members play games such as Dungeons and Dragons and

Traveler — games in which the participants are role players.

Gamers play board games that re-enact history. Steve Daniels, chairman of the committee, said. He said players try to alter the results of famous battles by using their own strategy. Typical games include Squad Leader and Third Reich.

Daniels said the original club, Gromets, was split because of its size.

"The club was getting too big and too diversified," Daniels said. "There were two different

hobbies in one club. Now they both have their own club so they can do their own thing."

Daniels also said the split has helped membership because the current titles give people a better understanding of the purpose of the clubs.

"Membership is up approximately 150 percent since the split," he said.

FRP will have about 140 members and Gamers will consist of about 60 members.

# Special explore drug us

by Kim Schmidt

**Battalion Reporter**  
A realistic look at the problem of drug and alcohol abuse by young people is the subject of a television documentary sponsored by Greenleaf Hospital.

The film, "Epidemic," shown on Temple-Waco Channel 6 at 8 p.m. Thursday.

The one-hour production deals with alcohol and problems of people between ages of 12 and 21, said Simpson, director of community relations at the hospital.

Simpson describes the hard-hitting, dramatic, educational and interesting film was made to increase community awareness of drug and alcohol problems what can be done about them.

Drug and alcohol use has increased in the past few years, Simpson said. Special board meetings held to deal with drug problems and the drug-sniffing dogs are a result of a growing concern over drug and alcohol use, she said.

Greenleaf Hospital's which has been treating and alcohol abuse or drug dependency on an inpatient basis since 1979, hopes documentary will answer residents' questions about drug abuse, Simpson said. "Epidemic" will describe nationwide problem of drug dependency and what communities can do about them on a local level as well as what families can do if a problem affects them, she said.

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