



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2002

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 9

ELECTIONS FOR NEW BOARD IN NOVEMBER

Elections are coming up in November and it is time for members to step up and volunteer. Brazos Valley Amateur Radio club was started with people willing to put their time in to support the club by volunteering for board positions. Without their effort and the people over the years that have put their time in, the club would not have survived. Over the years several board members have volunteered for multiple terms due to the lack of volunteers for board positions. Everyone that has spent many long hours working to keep Brazos Valley Amateur Radio club going is working not only to keep the club alive but they are working to keep the hobby alive. The membership needs to get involved now.

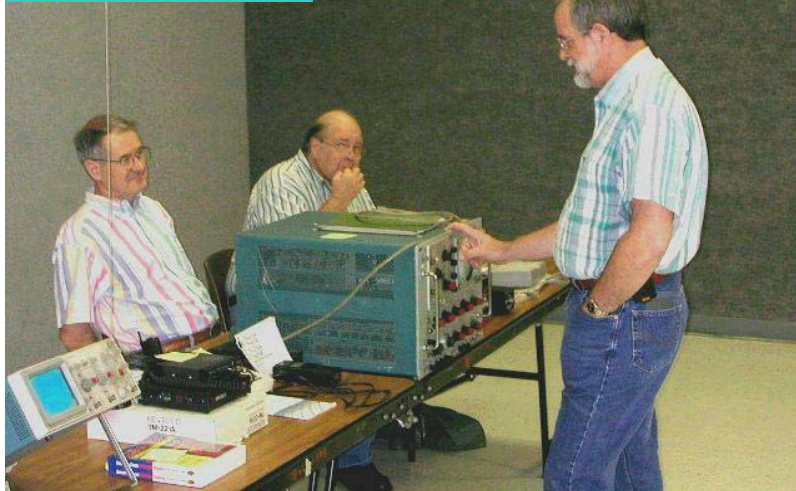
I know that everyone has limited time and it is difficult to make time for other areas. Only a few hours a week is necessary to handle a board position. Contact Kevin, KD5O, and let him know what position you are interested in. The club needs your support, for the club and the hobby!

The date for the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club's annual banquet has been determined. Due to the New Year's holiday, the **banquet will be held on January 10th, 2003**. The location, which will be picked at the October Board of Directors meeting, will determine the start time. We are looking at an earlier one this year possible around 7:00 PM. So keep an eye on the newsletter and the web site for the location and time.

MIX N MATCH SWAP MEET A SUCCESS!

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club's Mix n Match Swap meet was a big success. For a weekday, evening swap meet, turn-out was close to expectations. Several items were brought in by many people and the mixing and matching began. The evenings highlight was the auction of donated equipment to help raise money for the club's treasury.

Ron, Cam, and Peter contemplate a Techtronics boat anchor



Over \$300 dollars was raised for the club and a lot of equipment was cleared from a few member's closets. Several members have expressed interest on having

another swap meet but on Saturday morning like it was done in the past. One reason for the Thursday evening swap meet is at an enclosed location and not a bad place to have one. If someone has a good location for a Saturday morning swap meet, contact the board.

A big thanks for everyone that helped out on the swap meet. Without their help, it would have been impossible to have one. Thanks again for everyone's help.

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
President
Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Got some information that you think would interest other hams? Got a opinion to get off your chest? Then you have something that the newsletter needs! Articles! Beside needing an editor for the newsletter, it needs articles. If you have something or would like to be the editor let the board know.

2002 Club Officers:

President:
Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
n5vcx@worldnet.att.net

Vice President:
Robert Moore, KK5UO
kk5uo@hal-pc.org

Treasurer:
Rex Ritz, KC5EEU
icrex@yahoo.com

Corresponding Secretary:
Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM
k5cam@arrl.net

Recording Secretary:
Bill Allen, KC5IUU
william_allen@esicontrols.com

One-Year Board Member:
John Gilmore, AC5TL
johnnygilmore_1999@yahoo.com

Two-Year Board Member:
Paul Gray, N0JAA
n0jaa@aol.com

Three-Year Board Member:
Ross Lawler, W5HFF
w5hff@juno.com

Past President:
Kevin Foto, KD5O
foto@texas.net

Club Happenings:

General Meeting

Second Thursday each month-

Board of Directors Meeting

First Thursday of each month at the
Sugar Land Community Center

Volunteer Examiner Program

BVARC administers Amateur License
Exams on the 2nd Tuesday of each
month.

Contact John Moore, KK5NU

Eating Schedule

Third Friday Dinner at 6:30.
Location announced in the calendar.

Saturday morning breakfasts –
7:30 AM Viking Den,
Hwy 90A in Stafford
7:00 New York Coffee Shop

FCC Declares Communications Emergency as Hurricane Lili Approaches Gulf Coast

QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 60 ARLB060
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington, CT October 2, 2002
To all radio amateurs

The FCC has declared a communications emergency in response to the approach of Hurricane Lili. Under the authority of Section 97.401 of the FCC Amateur Service rules, a general communications emergency has been declared for the states of Louisiana and Texas. "Amateurs are required to refrain from using 7285 kHz (daytime) and 3873 kHz (nighttime), plus or minus 3 kHz unless they are taking part in the handling of emergency traffic," said the FCC declaration from Joseph P. Casey, Chief of the Technical and Public Safety Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. The FCC declaration will remain in effect until rescinded and could be in effect for as long as two weeks.

The National Weather Service reports that Lili has strengthened rapidly to a dangerous Category 4 hurricane. "Reports from an Air Force Reserve hurricane hunter aircraft indicate that maximum sustained winds have increased to near 135 MPH with higher gusts," said an NWS bulletin issued at 1800z. "Preparations to protect life and property in the hurricane warning area should be rushed to completion." A hurricane warning remains in effect from east of High Island Texas to the mouth of the Mississippi River.

South Texas ARRL Section Manager Ray Taylor, N5NAV, says the FCC declaration will support the operation of the West Gulf Emergency Net for Texas and Louisiana. Net operation began this morning. Taylor also says Amateur Radio operators are staffing the Texas emergency operations center in Austin as well as some along the coast, where evacuations already have begun.

The Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) is scheduled to remain active on 14.325 MHz until 0300z then activate October 3 at first light. Operators at W4EHW at the National Hurricane Center in Miami also have been active and cooperating with the HWN effort. W4EHW volunteers were scheduled to remain on duty at least until 0200z.

Information on the Hurricane Watch Net and W4EHW at the National Hurricane Center in Miami may be found on the web at <http://www.hwn.org> and <http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/w4ehw/>, respectively.

The minutes of the September Board of Directors meeting were not received in time for the newsletter printing. They will be printed at a later date.

The **November Meeting**, beside being our annual elections is the BVARC Chili Supper night. So get your recipes ready and bring out the best and hottest(?) chili that you can cook. Contact Ross, W5HFF and let him know what kind of mouth watering (burning!) dish you will be bringing.

The **December Meeting** will not be held in the Community Center due to a scheduling conflict with the City of Sugar Land. December is our "Home Brew" night and we will let everyone know as soon as possible on a location for the program. ***So get your "home brew" specials ready for the December meeting!***

THE BVARC RAG CHEW NET

June 2002 by Sam Wilson, N5CPA

PLEASE NOTE FREQUENCY CHANGE FROM 3960 KHz

3962.5 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00PM

Just WHAT IS the Rag Chew Net? Well it's a chance for you to get on the low bands and hang out with other BVARC members, as well as hams from around the south central US! WHAT?? Don't have voice privileges? Got a short-wave receiver? Dial in and listen, then check in using the telephone number announced at the beginning of each net.

8/07/02--N5CPA, K5CEK, KE5SR, K5VRJ, AB5BA, K5JWM, K5HFY, WB5SRN, KD5O, K5LJ, WA9YNJ. (11)

8/14/02—N5CPA, K5HFY, K5CEK, KE5SR, K5JWM, W5GHK, K5VRJ, AB5BA, WA5VRB, NM5K, WB5SRN. (11)

8/21/02--N5CPA, K5CEK, K5JWM, WA9YNJ, KB5F, WB5VYR. (6)

8/28/02--N5CPA, K5CEK, K5VRJ, AB5BA, WB5VYR, K5LJ, KB5F, AF5T. (8)

STORAGE USA®

Mark A. Austin
Diane Austin
Management Team

2222 SW FREEWAY
HOUSTON, TX 77098

PHONE (713) 807-0900
FAX (713) 807-7134
www.sus.com

BVARC PUBLIC SERVICE NET

Doug Woodruff, KC5VYZ - Coordinator

The BVARC Public Service Net meets every Monday night on 145.47 (123 PL) at 9:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Check-ins and that night's net control:

8/12 - 19 - Kevin, KD5O
8/19 - 24 - Joe, K5JWM
8/26 - 21-Doug, KC5VYZ
9/2-14 Cam, K5CAM
9/9 - 21 Kevin, KD5O
9/16 - 19 Joe, K5JWM
9/23 - 24 Doug, KC5VYZ
9/30 - 18 - John, K5LKJ

EPO

ELECTRONIC PARTS OUTLET

ELECTRONICS / COMPUTERS & MORE

THE ELECTRONIC SOURCE

3753 FONDREN
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77063
713 784-0140
713 784-9740 fax
STORE MANAGER
KEN TURNER

17776 TOMBALL PKWY
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77064
281 807-9600
281 774-0830 fax
STORE MANAGER
RICK ZAMARRIPA

SHIP TO WAREHOUSE:

9101 LIPAN
HOUSTON, TX 77063
713 787-0599
713 268-1044 fax

AMATEUR RADIO TESTING

RESULTS OF THE September 10th
B-VARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION
by: John Moore, KK5NU

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2002 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

VE's attending:

Mark Winslet KM5WR
George Ontko KM5VP
Larry Jacobson K5LJ

Candidates attending, elements taken:

Charles W. Jones KD5TKD (Tech) - Element 3
John S. Gilstrap Jr. - Element 2 earned: Technician (KD5TVJ)
Jerry G. Sweeton Jr. - Element 2 New License Technician (KD5TVI)

Many thanks to all the Team Members and Assistants who volunteer their valuable time and effort each month. Mark Winslet substituted for John who was in Germany.

All of us at B-VARC again thank everyone at HCC Scarcella Technology Center for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

..... 73

John Moore - KK5NU

The BVARC Board of Directors would like to thank **Lockard & White Telecommunications Engineers** for the production of the newsletter.

Federal Grant Supports Radio Amateurs' Role in Homeland Security

Newington, Conn., July 24, 2002 -- Amateur Radio volunteers throughout the United States will receive special training in emergency communication measures, thanks to a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio, which received \$181,900, was among several dozen nonprofit organizations designated to receive some \$10.3 million in federal money to boost homeland defense volunteer programs.

"Ham radio will certainly be part of the fabric of homeland defense and Amateur Radio operators have always been of the mindset that they want to do something for their country," says ARRL president Jim Haynie. "This grant is the opportunity for them to get started on it right away."

During the grant year, approximately 1,700 FCC licensed Amateur Radio operators will have the chance to register for free to take ARRL's online Emergency Communications Level I Course. Several factors will determine if ARRL will receive the requested federal money to expand this national program for 2 additional years.

In the event of a natural or man-made disaster, certified volunteers will work with community organizations to relay vital information in a structured and accurate manner. They will be skilled at composing and relaying messages by voice and through computer based Amateur Radio communications modes. Trained volunteers will join local Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) networks and will support emergency activities ranging from equipment logistics, victim location and identification, emergency shelter, food and water information, medical equipment and materiel distribution, and, sometimes, life-and-death communication.

In June, a separate \$33,000 grant from Connecticut based United Technologies Corporation was received that is providing the same training for up to 250 Connecticut Amateur Radio operators. "UTC saw the potential and translated that into action and became our corporate partner to expand Amateur Radio emergency training in Connecticut and beyond," says Mary Hobart, Chief Development Officer for the ARRL .

"For decades, Amateur Radio operators have been there during emergencies. This federal grant is a wonderful validation at the highest level of the decades of work that Amateur Radio operators have been doing in disaster preparedness and disaster management," says Hobart.

Today, there are nearly 700,000 Amateur Radio operators in the United States. Information on how to become involved in Amateur Radio is available from the ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main Street Newington, CT 06111 or by calling 1-800-32-NEW HAM. The URL for ARRL's home page is www.arrl.org.

SCANNER JACK'S CORNER

Frequencies for USAF Thunderbirds Airshow.

120.450 AM	126.200 AM	140.400 AM
141.850 AM	142.000 AM	142.2625 AM
235.250 AM	236.550 AM	236.600 AM
241.400 AM	250.850 AM	273.500 AM
275.350 AM	283.500 AM	294.700 AM
295.700 AM	302.150 AM	322.300 AM
322.350 AM	322.600 AM	322.850 AM
322.950 AM	382.900 AM	394.000 AM

413.000 FM or AM	413.025 FM or AM
413.100 FM or AM	173.5875 F.D. FM or AM

CLODINE Trunked Radio System: New frequencies.

866.4250	868.8500
----------	----------

FT. BEND ISD

488.7625	490.0375
----------	----------

from
SCANNER JACK
JACK ROBERTS, KB5TMY

Public Service Events

Here are some events for the rest of the year. Come out and help. Put your license and radio to a good use. If you like the hobby, this on of the best ways to promote the hobby and help a worthy cause at the same time. Remember, one of the main reasons for amateur radio is to help the community. If you are interested in any of these events, give me a call and I will send you the information on the event. Call me at 713-771-4625 or e-mail n5vcx@worldnet.att.net.

Mike, N5VCX

Belton HAM Expo

<http://www.tarc.org>

Saturday, October 5, 2002

MADD Country Roads Classic Bike Ride

<http://www.woodlandcyclingclub.org/maddcrc/>

Sunday, October 6, 2002 15 hams needed

Susan B. Komen Race for Cure

<http://www.komen-houston.org/html/race.html>

Saturday, October 12, 2002 15 hams needed

Moonlight Bicycle Ramble Bike Ride

<http://www.bikehouston.org/community/events/ramble/>

Sunday, October 20, 2002 15 hams needed

Koala Wellness/Luke's Locker 20K Warm-up Run

<http://www.houston20k.com/>

Sunday, October 20, 2002 15 hams needed

Wings Over Houston Air Show

<http://www.wingsoverhouston.com/>

Saturday/Sunday, October 26 & 27, 2002 70 needed

Novemberfest Bike Ride

<http://www.bicycletexas.com>

Sunday, November 2, 2002 25 hams needed

KRTS 25K Warm-up Run

<http://www.houstonmasters.org/activities.htm#KRTS>

Sunday, November 10, 2002 25 hams needed

Memorial Hermann 30K Warm-up Run

<http://www.slfinishlinesports.com/home.html>

Sunday, December 8, 2002 25 hams needed

HP Houston Marathon

<http://www.hphoustonmarathon.com/>

Sunday, January 19, 2003 140 hams needed

Add don't forget the MS150 Bike Ride

<http://www.ms150.org>

Saturday/Sunday, April 12th & 13, 2003 120 hams

**Complete
Computer
Solutions**

Services and Products:
Custom Built Computers
Repairs/Upgrades
Network Design/Installation
Components/Software/Accessories

345 Dulles Ave., Suite B
Stafford, Tx 77477
Phone 281-261-5220

HOUSTON
AMATEUR RADIO
SUPPLY, INC.

GEORGE DiLETTA, KDØRW
PRESIDENT

EXIT 68 I-45 NORTH
181 CYPRESSWOOD DRIVE
SPRING, TX 77388

800 471 7373
281 355 7373
FAX 281 355 8007



KK5UO and K5CEK contemplating



Ross offering slick looking Heath rigs



Joe practicing his salesmanship

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

2002 Membership Application

Check One:

New Membership

Renewal

Roster Update ONLY

Regular membership dues are \$16.00 a year. Lifetime Memberships are \$160.00. Additional family members may join B-VARC for only \$2.00 a year each with no additional copy of the newsletter.

Name: _____ Call: _____

Additional Family Members: _____ Call: _____

Additional Family Members: _____ Call: _____

(Note: If this is a renewal, please indicate only changes in personal information. Thanks.)

Address: _____ Day Phone () _____

_____ Zip+4: _____ Eve Phone () _____

e-mail address: _____

Main area of interests in amateur radio: _____

License Class:
 Novice General
 Technician Advanced
 Tech+ Extra
 Former Ham Not Yet a Ham

ARRL Membership?
 Life
 Annual
 Not a member

I agree to observe the By-Laws of Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club and rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission.

Signature: _____ Call: _____ Date: _____

Remittance:

Regular Membership _____ + Family Membership _____ = \$ _____

BVARC *LIFE MEMBERSHIPS* at \$160/Person _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL = \$ _____

Please make checks payable to BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB and write your call sign, if any, on your check. Send this form and your check or money order to:

**Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 1630
Missouri City TX 77459-1630**

B-VARC Calendar - October 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	3 BOD Meeting 7:30 PM	4	5 Belton Ham EXPO Breakfast - Viking Den -7:30 New York Coffee Shop 7:00
6 MADD County Classic	7 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	8 VE Session 6:30 pm	9 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	10 Club Meeting 7:30 pm	11	12 Race for the Cure Breakfast - Viking Den -7:30 New York Coffee Shop 7:00
13	14 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	15	16 6:30 pm HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	17	18 3 rd Friday Night Dinner*	19 Breakfast - Viking Den -7:30 New York Coffee Shop 7:00
20 Moonlight Ramble 20K Warm- Up Run	21 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	22	23 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	24	25	26 Wings over Houston Breakfast - Viking Den -7:30 New York Coffee Shop 7:00
27 Wings over Houston	28 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	29	30 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	31		

*3rd Friday Night Dinner at Panda Garden, 1043 Eldridge at Jess Pirtle -- 6:30 sharp.

B-VARC Calendar - November 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Breakfast - Viking Den -7:30 New York Coffee Shop 7:00
3 Novemberfest Bike Ride	4 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	5 VE Session 6:30 pm	6 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	7 BOD Meeting 7:30 pm	8	9 Breakfast - Viking Den -7:30 New York Coffee Shop 7:00
10 KRTS 25K Warm-Up Run	11 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	12	13 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	14 Club Meeting Chili Supper & Elections 7:30 pm	15	16 Breakfast - Viking Den -7:30 New York Coffee Shop 7:00
17	18 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	19	20 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	21	22	23 Breakfast - Viking Den -7:30 New York Coffee Shop 7:00
24	25 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	26	27	28	29	30



**Monthly Publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.
Amateur Radio for Southwest Houston and Fort Bend County**

Club Call sign - KC5OIG

BVARC's Website: <http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc>

Editor: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, k5cam@arrl.net

Production Team: Claude Sessions, K5HFY, claudes@juno.com

John Moore, KK5NU, jwm@hal-pc.org

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC) was, organized in 1978, primarily as an emergency communications group available to assist the communities of Missouri City and Stafford, when required. Since that time, BVARC has grown and expanded its activities to become the most active Amateur radio club in the Southwest Houston and Fort Bend county areas.

Today, BVARC is truly a general interest club with an impressive record of Public Service. The Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) has recognized the clubs commitment to service with the coveted status of Special Service Club. We are proud of our members who represent the some of the finest in Amateur Radio. Membership is not limited to licensed operators, but is open to anyone with an interest in Amateur Radio. Meetings are held generally at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, at the Sugar Land Community Center. Talk-in assistance is available in the 145.470, and 444.550 MHz (PL 123.0) repeaters. Membership dues are \$16 annually.

BVARC conducts A.R.R.L. VEC license exam sessions on the second Tuesday of each month. BVARC also conducts a Public Service Net at 9:00 P. M. each Monday on the Memorial Emergency Radio Association's 145.470 and 444.55 repeaters.

To obtain information about joining BVARC or its activities, contact Cameron Mitchell at 281-565-4665. New members and prospective hams should contact the Club's "Elmer", Ross, W5HFF at 281-342-3340 or w5hff@juno.com.

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 8

September 2002

**BRAZOS VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 1630
MISSOURI CITY TX 77459-1630**

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Next general meeting is
on October 10**