



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

MARCH 2004

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 2

B-VARC General Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 8, 2004

Time: 7:30 P.M.

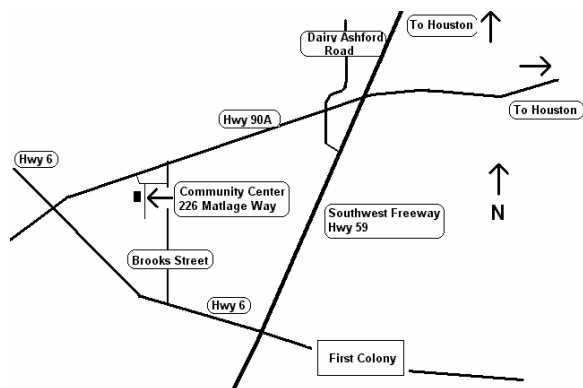
Location: Sugar Land Community Center

Street: 226 Matlage Way

Speaker: Dave Scott, WD8RZA

Subject: Doppler Receiving & Tracking

Members are encouraged to attend the General Meeting to learn about the latest in amateur radio technology along with the camaraderie of your fellow hams. Non-members are always welcome to visit and learn more about the club.



CLUB HAPPENINGS

Board of Directors Meeting

First Thursday each month,
Sugar Land Community Center,
224 Matlage Way

General Meeting

Second Thursday each month,
Sugar Land Community Center,
224 Matlage Way



Cal White and Paul Franz relate their experiences on their Yap Island DXpedition at the March meeting.

Volunteer Examiner Program

B-VARC administers Amateur License Exams on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the HCC Scarcella Technology Campus, 10141 Cash Rd. in Stafford. Contact John Moore, KK5NU

Eating Schedule

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

Saturday morning breakfasts –

7:00 a.m. New York Coffee Shop
9720 Hillcroft, Houston
7:30 a.m. Viking Den
2939 S. Main, Stafford

Rag Chew Net

3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays
at 7:00 p.m.

Public Service Net

Monday night on 145.47 (123 PL) at 8:00 PM

Monday Night NET Updates

Since January 5 of the year, the Monday Night Public Service Net has begun at 8 PM instead of 9 PM. Make sure you set your alarm to let you know when the NET is starting.

The MERA 145.470 repeater is the normal location for the Monday Night Public Service Net, but if it is experiencing difficulties, our alternate backup repeater is the 145.450 MHz repeater. Keep both frequencies programmed in your radio.

So, come join us! Remember, you do not have to be a club member to participate in the net. Visitors are always welcome.

Monday Night Public Service Net Check-ins

Date	# of Check-Ins	Net Control
2/2	- 23 -	Cam, K5CAM
2/9	- 19 -	Kevin, KD5O
2/16	- 22 -	Joe, K5JWM
2/23	- 18 -	Doug, KC5VYZ
3/1	- 19 -	Cam, K5CAM
3/8	- 24 -	Kevin, KD5O
3/15	- 15 -	Joe, K5JWM
3/22	- 21 -	Cam, K5CAM

The B-VARC Rag Chew Net

By Joe Morgan, K5JWM

February 2004 check-ins
3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00PM
Joe Morgan, K5JWM, Net Coordinator

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 B-VARC 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.

02/04/04__K5JWM, N5CPA, KE5SR, K5CEK, W5UHZ, WA5VRB, K5VRJ, AB5BA, W5HFF, WB5VYR, WA5TWL, KD5O, K5IHV check-ins(13)

02/11/04__K5JWM, KD5O, W5UHZ, K5VRJ, AB5BA, K5LJ, N5CPA, K5LKJ, W5UFK, K5LUB, WB5VYR. check-ins(11)

02/18/04__K5JWM, K5CEK, W5UHZ, WA5VRB, N5CPA, K5LKJ, WB5VYR, WB5SRN, K5LJ, KD5QPX, K5LBU, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KG5RQ. check-ins(14)

02/25/04__K5JWM, N5CPA, WB5SRN, K5LBU, K5CEK, W5UHZ, K5LKJ, K5VRJ, AB5BA, K5LJ, K5IHV, WA5VRB, KG5RQ. check-ins(13)

Editorial Opinion

By John C. Whiteman

If you haven't heard already, I am the new editor for the B-VARC newsletter.

How do you get to be the editor of the newsletter?

As it turns out, all you have to say is something like "I would like to do something to help keep B-VARC keep going" and BAM, before you can catch your breath they've made you editor.

This may come back to haunt them, though. They seem to have forgotten that I'm the guy who, while serving as Corresponding Secretary for the club, left the names of all of the Lifetime Members off the first printing I did of the club roster. That being the case, this could be a rough ride.

My goals while editor will be to see to it that your newsletter positively, absolutely gets out each month, no matter what. To provide advance information regarding upcoming club meetings, hamfests, public service events and all amateur radio events of interest. To publish interesting articles regarding amateur radio in all of its many facets, as often as possible. And, to produce a newsletter of which we can be proud, and which will serve you, the members, while at the same time promoting interest in our club to others.

The newsletter may be a little rough at first, because I don't have much experience using Word as a publisher, but with your patience, I will learn, and it will get better.

If you have any ideas about how we can make the newsletter better, please share them with me, by telephone, by Email or at the next B-VARC general meeting.

And, in the meantime, go ahead, volunteer...I dare you.

License Testing Results

by John Moore, KK5NU

B-VARC administered the ARRL-VEC Amateur Radio Examination sessions that were held November 11th, December 9th, and January 13th at Houston Community College Scarcella Technology Campus, here in Stafford.

February 10, 2004

One examination element was administered during the evening to a single applicant. One element was successfully completed; a CSCE was issued, with the total number of elements passed being 1.

The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

Congratulations to all the following who attained a license and/or passed an exam:

John D. Ontko - Element One (1)

February 28, 2004

Twenty one examination elements were administered at the B-VARC Mix 'n Match Hamfest session to twelve applicants. Five new Technician licenses were earned; three General class licenses were attained; and three Extra class licenses were earned. The total number of elements passed was eighteen (18). The overall "pass rate" for the event was 86%.

Congratulations to all the following who attained a license and/or passed an exam:

Scott L. Bauer - KA0DXR - Extra
David H. Bingham - {KD5APJ} - Technician
Debra A. Challis - KA5SLW - General
Dennis L. Cima - {KD5API} - Technician
Frederick B. Cull - WA5BUC - Extra
Thomas J. Munn - {KD5APH} - Technician
James O. Murphy - {KD5APK} - General
Paul A. Nelson - {AD5QJ} - Extra
Alpesh Sham - {KE5APG} - Technician
Nathan A. Stratton - {KE5APF} - Technician
Richard D. Yarborough - KA5HPZ - General

March 9, 2004

There were no applicants for examination.

Congratulations to everyone who passed an exam and/or upgraded.

Many thanks to all the Team Members and Assistants who volunteer their valuable time and effort each month. 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.

Public Service Events

By Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, President

Several Events Still Needing Volunteers!

Here are several upcoming Public Service and other amateur radio related events needing amateur radio operators for communications or participation. Operators of web sites and remail list, post this information on your web site. Please show your support for amateur radio by coming out to help or by attending the events.

BP MS150 Training Rides

There are several training rides that will need amateur radio communications. Besides helping the riders get prepared for the MS150, the ride also helps the operators prepare for it as well.

Don't forget the MS150 which uses amateur radio as the primary communications.

BP MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Ride

<http://www.ms150.org/ms150/>

April 17& 18, 2004

110 operators are need for this event. Please contact me as soon as possible as overnight accommodations need to arranged. The event is expected to have over 10,000 riders this year since it is the MS150's 20th anniversary. To provide communications for this event, all forms of amateur radio will be needed. Everything from HF to UHF from APRS to ECHO link is used for communications during the event. If you are interested in helping, please contact me as soon as possible.

Field Day Coordinator Needed!

Mike Hardwick reports that the Richmond Fire Training Field has been acquired as the site for this year's Field Day 2004 event. Three amateurs have already volunteered to help with various sections of the event, but no one has stepped forward to fill the Field Day Coordinator spot. I did it in 2000 and I can tell you that with all of the support that you get it's really not that difficult. If you think you might be interested in helping the club for this important event, just contact our club President, Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, or any of the Board Members and they will help get you started.

2004 Club Officers:

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

Vice President:
Allen Brier, N5XZ
abrier@hotmail.com

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:
Mack Arp, W5EET
w5eet@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary:
Joe Morgan, K5JWM
k5jwm@att.net

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

Two Year Board Member:
Sid Sherwood, N5ZKD
n5zkd@arrl.net

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

Club Happenings:

General Meeting

Second Thursday each month,
Sugar Land Community Center,
226 Matlage Way

Board of Directors Meeting

First Thursday of each month,
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226 Matlage Way

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at 7:00 p.m.

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Minutes of Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting

March 4,2004

Attendees: President: Mike Hardwick-N5VCX, Vice
President: Allen Brier-N5XZ, 1-Year Board Member/Club
Elmer: Ross Lawler-W5HFF, Corresponding
Secretary/Treasurer: Mack C. Arp-W5EET, Past Secretary
of Treasurer: Cameron Mitchell-K5CAM, 2-Year Board
Member: Sid Sherwood-N5ZKD, Recording Secretary: Joe
W Morgan-K5JWM.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by President Mike
Hardwick.

Comments: Mike Hardwick said the 3rd annual swap meet
was a hit and made a little money for the club and thanks
for everybody helping. Allen said not to
many tailgaters in parking lot.

Emergency Business: Minutes for Nov., Dec. and Jan.
approved. Mike made a motion to approve minutes. Sid
seconds it. Mack has account reports, membership status
and 3rd annual mix-n-match meet report. Write check for
grand prize to Houston amateur radio.

Old Business: By-Laws still need to be reviewed the by the
Board of Directors.

New Business: Newsletter for the club; John Whiteman,
K5LKJ will take over. We all thank John for helping out.
We have discussion on changing banks, so Mack makes a
motion to change. Sid seconds it. All said aye. We need
someone to take over the web page or help out with it. We
are making a motion to change the club to 501-3c. Ross
made the motion to change. Sid seconds it. All said I. Allen
will try to find where all the clubs records are at and find a
safe place for them so if we need them we can find
them easily.

Announcements:

March program will be on DXing from Yap Inland.
Skywarn for May, Mike N5VCX will be out of town.
April will try for history CW or RFI.
Field day backup will be at Sugar Land community center.
Backup repeater Freq. for the net is 145.45

Membership count: 143

Adjourn: 9:25 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary
Joe W Morgan-K5JWM



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2004 Club Membership Application

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (B-VARC) 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, B-VARC has grown and expanded its activities to become the most active amateur radio club in Southwest Houston and Fort Bend County.

Today, B-VARC is truly a general interest club with an impressive record of Public Service. The American 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 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. B-VARC administers ARRL-VEC license exam sessions on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. A Public Service Net is held at 8 PM. each Monday on the Memorial Emergency Radio Association's 145.47 & 444.55 repeaters.

If interested in joining B-VARC or its activities contact the Club's "Elmer", Ross, W5HFF at 281-342-3340 or w5hff@juno.com or the B-VARC Website at www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc.

Check One: New Membership Student Membership Renewal Roster Update ONLY

Regular membership dues are \$20.00 a year. Student membership dues are \$10.00 a year. Lifetime Memberships are \$160.00. Additional family members are \$2.00 a year each but no additional copy of the newsletter.

Name: _____ Call: _____

Additional Family Member: _____ 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: _____ Area of interest in amateur radio: _____

License Class: Novice General
(Check One) 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/Student Membership + Family Membership = \$ _____
(\$20.00) (\$10.00) (\$2.00)

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
2004 Membership Drive
P.O. Box 1630
Missouri City, Texas 77459-1630**



Monthly Publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.
 Serving Amateur Radio for Southwest Houston and Fort Bend County
 Club Call sign - KC5OIG, W5DPA
 B-VARC's Website: <http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc>
 Editor: John Whiteman, K5LKJ, jw@heatingtapes.com
 Production Team: Claude Sessions, K5HFY, k5hfy@arrl.net
 John Moore, KK5NU, jwm@hal-pc.org

B-VARC Meeting Dates for 2004

Time to mark your calendar for the 2004 meeting dates. Thanks for the early morning efforts of members of your club. It requires someone from our club showing up before the roosters even think about getting up and signing the club up for the rooms at the Community Center. So, mark your calendar with the dates for the Board of Directors and general meeting for 2004.

Date	Type	Location	Date	Type	Location	Date	Type	Location	Date	Type	Location
Feb 5	BOD	SLCC	March 4	BOD	SLCC	April 1	BOD	SLCC	May 6	BOD	SLCC
Feb 12	General	SLCC	March 11	General	SLCC	April 8	General	SLCC	May 13	General	SLCC
June 3	BOD	SLCC	July 1	BOD	SLCC	Aug 5	BOD	SLCC	Sept 2	BOD	SLCC
June 10	General	SLCC	July 8	General	SLCC	Aug 12	General	SLCC	Sept 9	General	SLCC
Oct 7	BOD	SLCC	Nov 4	BOD	SL Lib	Dec 2	BOD	SL Lib	SL Lib – Eldridge Road Library		
Oct 14	General	SLCC	Nov 11	General	SLCC	Dec 9	General	SL Lib	SLCC – Sugar Land Comm. Ctr.		

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 2

March 2004

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

**Monday Night Public Service Net Now at 8:00 P.M.
 Next General Meeting on April 8, 2004**



If your mailing label is highlighted in color its time to renew your membership