



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

DECEMBER 2004

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 9

DECEMBER MEETING HOMEBREW NIGHT

The December 9th meeting is the club's annual "homebrew" night featuring member's homebrew projects. Bring that special project of yours to share with the other members. The most unique project will be voted on for a grand prize.

Remember that the meeting takes place, this month only, at the Sugar Land Library on Eldridge Road about 1 mile north of Hwy 90A. We will try and start the meeting a little early since the library closes promptly at 9 p.m.

So put that "Tuna Tin" kit together in a Zippo lighter case and bring it to the next Thursday's meeting.

The November Chili Supper & Elections of Officers

The November general meeting includes a special event, the annual Chili Supper. Like our other eating events, this event was well attended. About 10 brought their best chili, beans and chili/cheese dip for everyone to enjoy.

Mike Hardwick made general announcements about club activities and proceeded with introducing the newly nominated board members. Also, those that are stepping down were recognized for their service to the club. The election was then held and the new board members along with the ones now serving were asked to come forward for introductions and photographs. See picture included

with this newsletter of your new board members for year 2005.

The membership elected Ross Lawler, W5HFF as the Corresponding Secretary/ Treasurer and elected Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ, as the 2 year Board member. We would also like to thank Mac Arp, W5EET, for his services as the outgoing Corresponding Secretary/ Treasurer. We thank Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, for volunteering to remain as President of BVARC. Other officers and board members were reelected. We proceeded with the standing roll call and introduce ourselves and any visitor that we had brought to the event. The chili supper brings out a number of our wives / family or friends to the club meeting.

The chili was prepared and hot so we proceeded with the eating event. There were numerous types of chili (with or without beans) place out for all to sample. We had several added extras such as cheese stuffed jalapenos, crackers, cheese, and the Tums for anyone that needed them. Someone brought cake, cookies and various soft drinks were there to wash it down or quench the fire. From the pictures on Page 2, you can see some of the resulting smiles and fellowship, enjoyed by all.

Three of the wives in attendance were asked to judge the chilies and vote on the best. They managed to pick one as the best and Robert Moore's (KK5UO) was announced as the winner. He received a year's subscription to the World Radio News.

I wish to thank everyone that brought chili, beans, and fix-ins (cake, cookies, cokes) and those that helped get this event together. We hope that social events like this will help the club to grow.

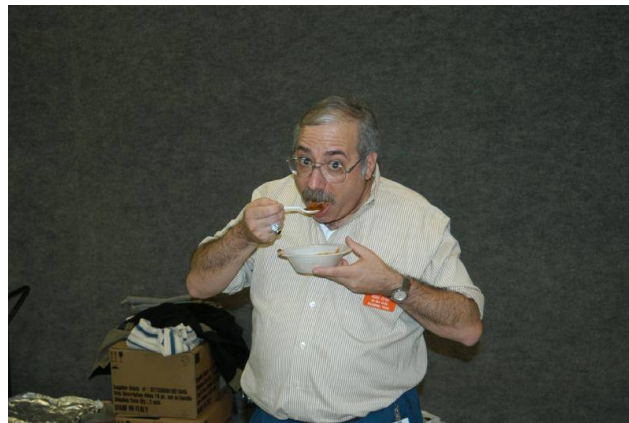
Submitted by Ross Lawler – W5HFF

Merry Christmas
Happy Hanukkah
Happy Holidays

PHOTOS FROM THE NOVEMBER MEETING



The scene



Is it **hot**?



Some of the 2005 officers and directors.



More from the scene.

BVARC EATING SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFASTS:

NEW YORK COFFEE SHOP, 7:30a.m., 9720 Hillcroft, Houston.

VIKING DEN, 7:30a.m., 2939 S. Main (US90A), Stafford.

THIRD FRIDAY DINNERS:

DECEMBER – NONE – Too close to Christmas.

JANUARY – NONE – Too close to Awards Banquet.

FEBRUARY – Tio Pepe's Spanish Restaurant, in Bellaire, 7:30p.m.

Monday Night NET Updates

Don't forget the Monday Night Public Service Net starts at **8 pm**. 146.88 Mhz, PL 103.5 (backup – 145.45, PL –none). The order of check-ins start with mobile units first then fixed stations. If you have something for the net, make sure you let Net Control know about it when you check in. We are looking for Net Control Operators. Contact any officer of BVARC if you are interested.

President's Corner

The new year is just around the corner and with it are, hopefully, some new members for BVARC.

Even though it is not new, February general meeting program will be for new hams and/or new members. This will be the third year for this endeavor and hopefully this will become a tradition for the club on each February. By bringing in new hams and/or new members, this will introduce someone that is interested in the hobby not only to the club but also to all the different areas of interests in the amateur radio hobby. It will allow someone to learn more about the hobby and if they have just recently received their license, a place to enjoy the hobby. Make sure you someone that is interested in amateur radio or someone just licensed to the February meeting.

Don't forget the 4th Annual Mix-n-Match Swap Meet on March 5th at the Sugar Land Community Center. The entire community center has been reserved for the swap meet from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. so make sure you pass the information to other hams in the Houston area. Having a swap meet helps BVARC raise money as well as allows the club to become more active in amateur radio in the Houston area.

Don't forget to make your selection for the three club awards at the general meeting in December. The club has the Order of the Key, Loop and Zepp, and Dr. Bill awards. Check the club web site for the award details. You need to make your nominations in writing no later than the general meeting in December for that person to be considered for an award. If you have any questions, please contact any of the board of directors.

It looks like the club camping/picnic will be coming back. It will be held either in the spring or fall so keep your eye on the web site and newsletter for more information.

The membership elected Ross Lawler, W5HFF as the Corresponding Secretary/ Treasurer and elected Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ, as the 2 year Board member. We would also like to thank Mac Arp, W5EET, for his services as the outgoing Corresponding Secretary/ Treasurer.

So there are many things coming up the new year for Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club. If you would like to help let one of the club board of directors know. Remember it takes the club members to make the club.

73's
Mike, N5VCX

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

The BVARC Newsletter is compiled the last week of the month. The 25th of the month is the cutoff date for submittals. Because that is Christmas Day, please submit your materials before that date.

Please submit any material that you have to John (K5IZO) at k5izo@yahoo.com

Submit this material as an attachment in either MS Word (.doc) format or TEXT (.txt) format.

We intend to get the newsletter in the members hands before the General Membership Meeting each month. There will be no meeting in January because of the Annual Banquet which falls on the next day, Jan 14, but we still want to get it in the member's hands in order to encourage attendance at the banquet.

Please note that the club is paying for copying costs typically running around \$75 per issue. We are ACTIVELY soliciting members to talk to their employer to see if they would volunteer to allow us to use their copy machines. We would take ANY sort of help, from full copying, to our providing the paper, to their subsidizing this worthwhile cause.

John K5IZO

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02/03

BVARC Calendar - December 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 HF Net 8:00 pm 3910 +/- 3KHz	2 BOD Meeting 7:30PM	3	4
5	6 Net 8:00 pm 146.880	7	8 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/- 3KHz	9 Club Meeting 7:30 pm @ SL Library	10	11
12	13 Net 8:00 pm 146.880	14 VE Session 6:30 pm	15 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/- 3KHz	16	17	18
19	20 Net 8:00 pm 146.880	21	22 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/- 3KHz	23	24	25 Christmas
26	27 Net 8:00 pm 146.880	28	29 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/- 3KHz	30	31	

**Remember: Saturday morning breakfasts - See details under Club Happenings.
Third Friday Dinner, 7:30p.m. (sharp). Check into one of the nets for the location.**

Donation Notice

BVARC has been fortunate to receive several significant donations of ham equipment over the last few months. EPO donated \$100 to the club's general fund. The board of directors are working out the details on possible having club recruitment drive at EPO in the near future which would be beneficial to EPO as well BVARC.

Randy Pollard, AK5G also donated \$50 dollars to the club general fund. There have been several club members that have turned their raffle winnings back to the club.

Charlie Prochaska, KG5KV donated all of his prize possessions from his garage. Everything from a worn out antenna spring to a TenTec radio o HF amp was in this mother load of equipment. Over the next few weeks some of the items will end up as door prizes and who's knows what. The majority of the equipment will be offered for sale at the club's 4th annual Mix-n-Match swap meet on March 5th, 2005.

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club would like to thank EPO, Charlie Prochaska, Randy Pollard and the other club members for their thoughtful donations. For those of you that haven't heard, the club will soon be a 501.3c organization which will make your donation to BVARC tax deductible.

Upcoming Hamfests

Here is hamfest info for the next several months. Additional listings are at: <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html#listing>

KCOMM, INC.

10815 Gulfdale
San Antonio, Texas 78216
<http://home.satx.rr.com/kcomm/>

Parking Lot Swapfest !
(210) 344-3311

A reminder to everyone in the San Antonio area.
We have renewed our monthly tailgater... Parking lot swapfest.
It's in our parking lot, the last Saturday each month.
Gulfdale is close to the San Antonio International Airport.
Hey!!! Free coffee & doughnuts.
C'mon out and set a spell.

Humble TEAC ARC Swapmeet

Third Saturday in March, June, September, December in Humble. Sponsored by TEAC - Hugh W5FM@arrl.net
145.43(minus offset)

San Antonio Swapfest05

www.w5sc.org

Saturday, January 8, 2005
Little Joe's Country Gold , 7405 Old Pearsall Rd.
Advanced Registration: Tables: \$6.00 Admission:
\$2.00 Must be received by Dec.30, 2004. At The
Door: Tables: \$7.00 Admission: \$3.00 Food and

drinks available on site. Early Bird Registrations must be received by Dec.15, 2004. Setup: 7:00 AM Sat.
Doors Open to Public 8:00 AM Sat.

TALK IN WILL BE: 146.940 OR 444.100 BOTH WITH
179.9 TONE

For more information contact Erik Smith at 210-831-9811 or swapfest@w5sc.org

Georgetown Sunday Swapmeet

<http://www.wcarc.com>

February 6, 2005

Contact w5rht@arrl.net for more information

Brazos Valley ARC Mix-N-Match Swap Meet March 5, 2005

<http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc/> or n5vcx@arrl.net
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Indoor tables and outdoor
Spaces available at Sugar Land Community Center
Needing volunteers to help with the swap meet!

BVARC License Testing

Please refer to the cover for information on testing. An extensive article on testing will be included in the next newsletter. You can also refer to the website for more details.

Public Service Events

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.

HP Houston Marathon 8:00 a.m. January 16, 2005

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

The 2005 Houston Marathon, which will be run **Sunday, 16 January 2003**, needs amateur radio operators and others to provide communications. This is the 33rd consecutive year for this event. Last year over 145 communications volunteers helped assure the safety and welfare of the more than 8000 runners and the public supporting the race.

Carl Hacker, KB5LDY, Chair, Houston Marathon Communications Committee

10039 Lynbrook Drive, Houston, TX 77042 H: 713- 977-9754 W: 713-500-9185

e-mail: Carl.S.Hacler@urh.tmc.edu

www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/course/maps/hacker/

BP MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Tour 2005

7:00 a.m. April 16 & 17, 2005

Premier 2 day cycling event needing 120 amateur radio operators to provide communications for support. Communications will be on HF, VHF, UHF, and APRS. Bike Ride has multiple courses between Houston and Austin and amateur radio covers all areas, medical, break points/water stops, start and finish areas, SAGS, supply trucks, and event staff.

If you are interested in helping, please give Mike Hardwick, N5VCX a call at 713-771-4625.

Thanks, Mike, n5vcx@arrl.net

THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

October 2004 check-ins *By Joe Morgan, K5JWM*

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.

10/06/04__K5JWM,N5CPA,K5CEKW5HFF,KA5JKI, K5LJ,W5UHZ,K5HFY,WA5CYI,K5VRJ,AB5BA, KG5RQ. Check-ins(12)

10/13/04__K5JWM,K5CEK,N5VXU,W5HFF,N5CPA, K5VRJ,AB5BA,K5HFY. Check_ins(08).

10/20/04__K5JWM,N5CPAAB5BA,K5VRJ,K5LJ,W5UHZ, KG5RQ,W5HFF. Check-ins(08)

10/27/04__K5JWM,K5CEK,W5HFF,N5CPA,W5UHZ, WB5VYR,N5VXU,K5LJ,W5HFF,K5VRJ,AB5BA,K5GP, KB5F, W5UFK. Check-ins(13)

BVARC AWARDS

Remember to make your nominations for the BVARC Awards to be given at the annual banquet. See details of these in last month's newsletter or on the BVARC website. They are also briefly mentioned in the President's Message at the beginning of this newsletter. Directors must be unanimous in their vote for the award to be conferred.

BVARC presented a check to the ARRL for the Frequency Defense Fund at the NARS meeting.



Present in the photo from left to right are:

Bruce Meier, N1LN - President of NARS, Coy Day, N5OK - ARRL West Gulf Division Director, Mike Hardwick, N5VCX - President of BVARC and H.O. Townsen, K5CX - NARS webmaster

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ANNUAL BANQUET

Mark your calendars for the annual banquet which always takes place just after the holiday season. This year it will once again be at the Saltgrass Steak House on the SW Freeway, on Friday, January 14, 2005. 7PM for cash bar; 8PM for meals (order from menu).

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Ham Radio Information Storage Solution by Rick Hiller, W5RH

Submitted by Rick Hiller, W5RH

With the plethora of Ham Radio information we have these days, it is best to organize this information for easy reference during future research. I have settled on the following common format storage methodology.

Problem

I surf the web at lunch, looking for that antenna or other Ham Radio article that describe something new or different. Over time, the number of HTML "Favorites" or "Bookmarks" stored within my browsers builds up to a crazy, unmanageable level. Another major problem is that I have had a few 'elmers' in the past that had blessed me with many paper magazines and I continue to read through those and pull out interesting stuff. Out of all of this I have chaos within my information and paper chase. So I have decided to standardize on the system described below.

Solution

I have chosen to put all of my Ham Radio articles, web page and e-mail archives in the PDF format. The Adobe PDF viewer is free, although, I personally have a paid copy of the full blown Acrobat Version 5. Many things are available on the web that are downloadable in PDF format.

Information Sources

The sources for my Ham Radio information originates from 3 places:

- 1) from hard copy
- 2) off of web sites
- 3) off of e-mail

Hardcopy (printed) items, that folks give me or that are in magazines, are scanned on my scanner and output as a PDF. I use Adobe Acrobat 5 (I purchased this), to crop and rotate, etc. so that each page displays properly with minimal disk space used.

For electronic based information, not already in PDF, like, e-mail, web sites, Word documents, etc., I use a free tool to "print" a PDF file. Fine Print PDF Factory Pro is a free printer driver, downloaded at <http://www.pdfactory.com/>.

Once downloaded, you can run it in demo mode, which is free. The only caveat is that each page of the PDF will have a trailer line at the bottom of each page that says "PDF created with FinePrint pdfFactory Pro trial version <http://www.fineprint.com>"

Not a problem in my book for a free tool.

So, when I find something I want to keep, I simply 'print' it to the PDF file through this driver. I can name the file what I want, ie. "Current Distribution in the Antenna Loading Coils by k3bu.pdf, and place it where I want it.

Storage

I have my E drive set up as my "data" storage disk on which I have all of my Word files, mp3 music files and PDF files. For radio, specifically, I have a directory "/radio " under which I have various sub-directories of antennas, QRP, satellites, propagation, software defined radios, etc. Under each of these sub-directories I have further delineation , ie., antennas has verticals, dipoles, transmission lines, loops, delta loops, etc.

Although a fair amount of work was initially required to set up the directory structure and sort the existing files, now it is easy to add an article or an e-mail of interest. Occasionally, I will simply backup the 'radio' directory to CD for safe keeping

Benefits

I can send folks copies of any article very easily, as they are in PDF and the PDF reader is free. I can print them to hard copy, such as I do when I go on a business trip. I print off a few articles for some light reading on the plane. I can also, just take a copy of my backup CD, or CD-RW, with me and read it on any computer that has a CD drive and Adobe Acrobat. All in all, it is the best solution I have found for information storage of my Ham Radio information, of which there is a ton.

I hope this helps solve your overall information storage dilemma....Rick...W5RH

2004 Club Officers:

President:

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
n5vcx@worldnet.att.net

Vice President:

Allen Brier, N5XZ
n5xz@arrl.net

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@yahoo.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,
Sugar Land Community Center,
226 Matlage Way

Volunteer Examiner Program

BVARC 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 7:30 p.m.
Location announced in the calendar.

Saturday morning breakfasts –

7:30 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 146.88 (103.5 PL)
at 8:00 PM

Minutes of Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting

November 4,2004

Attendees: President Mike Hardwick-N5VCX
Vise President Allen-N5XZ
Treasurer/Corresponding Secretary Mack Arp-W5EET
Recording Secretary, Joe W Morgan - K5JWM
1-Year at Large Director/Club Elmer Ross Lawler-W5HFF
Past President Kevin Foto KD5O
Club Senior Advisor Cameron-K5CAM
John Chauvin-K5IZO
Robert Polanski-KD5YVQ

Meeting called to order at 7:36 PM by President Mike Hardwick

Emergency Business: Bank account updated and the CD is up to date with the time period for the CD being 2 years with 3% interest.
Replacement for club newsletter Editor and thanks for John Chauvin-K5IZO for standing up and taking over the club newsletter.
We need a sponsor for printing the newsletter.

Old Business: Prepare new calendar for the year for BOD.

IRS-C3-Update still pending.

Club records still to be stored in storage.

Donating 150.00 dollars to ARRL.

Newsletter production was talked about and we have discussed a 15 point policy.

November Chili supper and Elections.

December home brew night.

New Business: Elections for November:

President

At large position 2 year

Treasurer/Corresponding Secretary

2005 Mix-n-Match swap meet: Time and cost of community center.

Commercial Vendors- how many and Flyers to other clubs.

Banquet location-Saltgrass on SW Freeway, Date 1-14-2005

Time 7pm for drinks, 8 pm Dinning

Announcements: Next years Program Schedule February-New Ham/New Member Month.

Membership count:98

Adjourn:8:41

Submitted by Recording Secretary Joe W Morgan-K5JWM



Monthly Publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.
Serving Amateur Radio for Southwest Houston and Fort Bend County
Club Call sign - KC5OIG, W5DPA
BVARC Website: <http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc>
Editor: John Chauvin, K5IZO, k5izo@yahoo.com
Production Team: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, k5cam@arrl.net
Claude Sessions, K5HFY, k5hfy@arrl.net

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 amateur radio club along with an impressive record of public service. The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) has recognized the club's commitment of service with the coveted status of Special Services 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. Club meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Sugar Land Community Center, 226 Matlege Way. Talk-in assistance for the club meeting is available on the 146.880 repeater (minus offset, 103.5 tone). General membership dues are \$20.00 per year, with student dues \$10.00 per year, addition family members \$2.00 per member per year and life membership \$160.00.

BVARC also administers amateur radio license exams on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Houston Community College's Scarcella campus in Stafford. A Public Service Net is held each Monday at 8:00 p.m. on the 146.880 (minus offset with a 103.5 tone) repeater and a rag chew net is held each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. on 3910 KHz +/- 3 KHz.

To obtain information about joining BVARC or its activities contact the club's "Elmer", Ross Lawler, W5HFF at 281-342-3340 or w5hff@yahoo.com or the BVARC website at www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc.

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 9

December 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 at 8:00 P.M.
Wednesday Night Rag Chew New at 7:00 P.M.
Next General Meeting on December 9 at 7:30 P.M.**

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