



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

DECEMBER 2005

VOLUME 29 | ISSUE 12

HOMEBREW NIGHT DECEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The monthly general membership meeting takes place on Thursday, December 8 at 7:30PM at the Sugar Land Community Center. This will be the annual "homebrew night." Bring your projects and show them to the club. See the last page for meeting location info.

CHILI SUPPER - A SUCCESS

The annual Chili Supper took place at the November General Membership Meeting. Many brought their favorite chili and associated goodies. A huge TNX goes out to all that brought something. 54 people attended. Annual elections also took place. The results are given in the President's Message.



ANNUAL BANQUET Friday, January 13

The annual BVARC banquet will be held on Friday, January 13, 2006 at the Saltgrass Steak House on the Southwest Freeway between Gessner and Bissonnet. The banquet is in lieu of the general meeting.

We will start meeting around 7 pm to socialize and tell lies and then order dinner around 8 pm. The restaurant management has asked that we choose from a set menu this year to make the serving go faster. The menu's range from \$16 to \$26 and do not include tip or tax. The menus will be available at the December meeting so we can choose which one that will be used on the 13th. I hope everyone in BVARC will be able to make it to this annual event.

President's Corner

First I would like to thank everyone that helped at the November meeting with the elections and the Chili Supper. Without your help, everyone would have had to go to Jack-in-the-Box for dinner. Having the different types of chili made the evening very enjoyable, both on the tasting and talking with everyone. The chili supper brought in around 54 people this year and I hope that everyone enjoyed themselves as much as I did.

I also want to thank Pete Sauermilch & Sid Sherwood for stepping up to be on the board. I know they will have a great time over the next two years. I want to also thank Joe Morgan for his service on the board for the past several years. He has really helped out by being the recording secretary and handling the HF net on Wednesday. Of course Joe doesn't realize that I have some other duties for him in 2006! I also want to thank everyone for voting for me for president for another term. I still have a few items that I would like to do for the club and amateur radio and by being president it will help speed the process along.

Coming up in December is the annual "Home Brew" night for the club. Members are encouraged to bring their best home built items such as receivers, transmitters and other assorted equipment to show off to the rest of the club. If you have something to show, give me a call and let me know so there can be enough tables set up for everyone.

Just a few weeks away in January is the BVARC banquet. The banquet will be on Friday, January 13th, at the Saltgrass Steak House on the Southwest Freeway between 7:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Mark your calendar and come on out for a great time.

Nominees are still needed for the annual club awards that are presented during the banquet. These awards are presented for outstanding service to the club and amateur radio. The awards are: The Loop and Zepp; Dr. Bill and the Order of the Key. Your input is needed for these awards. If you would like to know more please check the web site for the qualifications and award history. To make things easier for everyone, there will be ballots at the December 8th meeting for everyone to fill out.

Don't forget The Greater Houston Hamfest on Saturday, March 4th at the Sugar Land Community Center. You will start to see flyers promoting it around the meetings over the next few months. We have had a planning session and everything is moving forward on the hamfest. Twenty volunteers are still needed to help with the hamfest so if you would like to help out, contact anyone on the board of directors.

Everyone needs to get ready for the 2006 functions such as New Ham and New Member night in February, licensing classes in February, and of course Field Day in June. Now is the time to get involved and help out for everything that is going on at BVARC!

73,
N5VCX

BVARC License Classes

Ross Lawler, W5HFF, and John Chauvin, K5IZO, will be holding license classes in February. There are no fees. The Technician Class will be repeated first and will consist of two accelerated classes over two Saturdays. These 4 hour sessions will be held from 9AM to 1PM. The first is on Saturday, February 18 and the second on Saturday, February 25. This will be followed in March with the code class. The General Class and Extra Class will follow.

Classes take place at St. Paul Presbyterian at the corner of Bellaire and SW Freeway. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED; We need at least 3 students to for the class to "make." Contact Ross at W5HFF@yahoo.com or John at K5IZO@yahoo.com if you wish to attend.

Public Service Events in December and January needing operators

30K Warm-up Run for the Houston Marathon

<https://www.signmeup.com/site/reg/register.aspx?fid=W52VNK7>

7:00 a.m. Sunday, December 11, 2005, First Colony, Sugar Land

Multi-loop training run for the Houston Chevron Marathon held in downtown Houston. Fifteen operators are needed for the 30K run. All volunteers will meet at the Denny's on Hwy 6 at 4:45 a.m. for maps, route information and t-shirts.

The talk-in frequency will be on the 145.450 minus offset no tone repeater. The event will be on the 444.600 plus 71.9 tone repeater.

If you would like to volunteer please let me know as soon as possible so the positions can be schedule.

Mike Hardwick, 713-771-4625

2005 Chevron Jingle Bell Run/Walk

http://www.jinglebellrunonline.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1&Itemid=1https://www.signmeup.com/site/reg/register.aspx?fid=W52VNK7

2:30 p.m. Sunday, December 11, 2005' Downtown Houston

Multi course and Multi-loop fun run benefiting the Downtown YMCA's Partner's Campaign which provides scholarship dollars for people in need of YMCA programs. Ten operators are needed for the 4 different courses/runs. All volunteers will meet at the Denny's on I-10 at 12 noon for maps, route information and t-shirts. The talk-in and event frequency will be on the 147.000, plus offset, 103.5 tone repeater.

If you would like to volunteer please let me know as soon as possible so the positions can be schedule.

Mike Hardwick, 713-771-4625

Chevron Houston Marathon, Half Marathon and 5K Run

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

6:45 a.m. Sunday, January 15, 2006, Houston

Premier running event for Houston. Over 100 operators are needed for this event. Meeting locations and frequencies are still being coordinated and organized.

If you would like to volunteer please let me know as soon as possible so the positions can be schedule.

Carl Hacker, KB5LDY chacker@sph.uth.tmc.edu 713-500-9185 or 713-977-9754

And in the Months to Follow

Frost Bike 50

Sunday, January 29, 2006

The Big Chill Bike Ride

Sunday, February 05, 2006

Paws & Puddles Bike Ride

Saturday, February 18, 2006

Wild, Wild West End Ride

Sunday, February 19, 2006

Gator Ride

Saturday, March 04, 2006

The Continental Airlines Cycling Classic
Saturday, March 11, 2006

Bluebonnet Express
Sunday, March 12, 2006

Tour de Cypress
Sunday, March 26, 2006

The Space Race
Sunday, April 09, 2006

BP MS150 Bike Tour
Saturday, April 22 & Sunday, April 23, 2006

“HAMS FOR HOSPITALS”

AN AMATEUR RADIO SOLUTION FOR AREA HOSPITAL COMMUNICATIONS

Over the last few months, disasters have crippled several areas of the United States. The one thing that is the most vital during emergencies is communications. Without some type communications, relief efforts would be next to impossible. Disasters overload and destroy cellular and regular telephone systems and power grids are destroyed. With the support structure destroyed, regular communications channels are non-existent. Amateur radio communications, due to their many redundant systems, can provide communications.

Hams for Hospitals is a plan to put amateur radio operators at all of Houston area hospitals to serve as a back-up to normal communication channels. In times of communications overloads or shutdowns, amateur operators will be activated to provide emergency communications for each facility. Hams for Hospitals will be implemented over three phases.

Phase 1 – Identify and Introductions: The first step is to identify all hospitals and the surrounding amateurs that would like to participate in the program. Once this is done, the operators will then “learn the ropes” at the facility that they will be assigned to. Monthly meetings will be organized where the operators will assemble at the hospital and then have an “over the air” round table checking equipment and communications links. A coordinator will be chosen for each hospital to oversee assignments, staffing, and communications between the hospital and the communication group.

Phase 2 – Basic equipment installations: To provide wide area communications, external antennas are needed. Once an area of operation can be determined in Phase 1, and with the hospitals permission, external antennas will need to purchase and installed at the facilities. These antennas, along with the equipment that the operators bring with them, will allow them to communication with the other hospitals in the greater Houston area.

Phase 3 – Advanced Equipment installations: To further enhance the communications effort and to standardize abilities, radio equipment and computers will need to be purchased for each location. This will allow for a more reliable communications system to be utilized during emergencies. The equipment will allow for communications on VHF and UHF systems as well as semi-secure data communications (radio e-mail). The amateur community has several linked radio systems that cover a major portion of the United States. An option to this phase is to also add high frequency or HF equipment as well. This will allow communications not only the Houston area and Texas but the entire southeastern United States.

The tentative target is to complete Phase 1 before the next hurricane season begins. If Phase 1 is ahead of schedule, then Phase 2 will be started in the areas that may be affected by storm surge or high winds. Depending on budgets at the facilities as well as available time from the amateur community, the completion of Phase 3 would be completed before the 2007 hurricane season.

I hope area hospitals will embrace and support this proposal for a back-up communication network for their facility. During the 2005 hurricane season, the problems encountered due to the lack of communications were seen at ever turn. Amateur radio communications can provide the need communications at the time of need.

Michael Hardwick
President
Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
713-771-4625

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02/05

Frosty's Antenna Party



Mike, N5VCX - working.



Ross, W5HFF & Dwayne, KB5YTA - supervising

Houston Amateur Radio Supply

181 Cypresswood Drive

Houston, Texas 77388-6038

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<http://texasparadise.com/hars/> George DiLetto KD0RW

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. Here are recent check-ins with control-ops:

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 6/13 - 28 - Mike, n5vcx | 8/15 - 11 - Joe, n5jwm | 10/10 - 24 - Doug, kc5vyz |
| 6/20 - 13 - Mike, n5vcx | 8/22 - 25 - Sid, n5zkd | 10/17 - 21 - Sid, n5zkd |
| 6/27 - 18 - Cam, k5cam | 9/5 - 15 - Cam, k5cam | 10/24 - 25 - Sid, n5zkd |
| 7/18 - 19 - John, k5lkj | 9/12 - 17 - Doug, kc5vyz and Sid, n5zkd | 10/31 - 31 - Mike, n5vcx |
| 7/25 - 18 - Larry, k5lj | 9/19 - 23 - Joe, k5jwm | 11/7 - 33 - Cam, k5cam |
| 8/1 - 26 - Cam, k5cam | 9/26 - 25 - Sid, n5zkd | 11/14 - 22 - Mike, n5vcx |
| 8/8 - 20 - Sid, n5zkd | 10/3 - 18 - Cam, k5cam | 11/21 - 19 - Sid, n5zkd |

BVARC GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST - - March 4, 2006

Please take note that the BVARC "Mix-N-Match Swapmeet" name has been changed. Mark your calendars. Details will be given in this newsletter and are on the BVARC website.

BVARC Awards

Remember to submit your awards nominations in writing to any member of the Board or any officer by the December General Membership Meeting.

The awards are: **The Order of the Key**
The Dr. Bill Award
The Loop and Zepp Award

Details of these are in last month's newsletter which is also on the BVARC website.

BVARC EATING SCHEDULE

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFASTS:

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

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

THIRD FRIDAY DINNERS:

December--NO DINNER--Too close to religious holidays.

January--NO DINNER--Don't want to compete with Awards Banquet.

Scenes from the BVARC picnic.



John, K5LKL, Charles, WA5FMK and Dennis, W5DDD by Dennis's jeep.



Charles, WA5FMK checks out the packing on Dennis's jeep.

73, Pump

Useful Information for New Satellite Operators

by Allen Mattis N5AFV

Introduction

There are currently three active FM satellites that use 145 MHz for the uplink and 435-436 MHz for the downlink, otherwise known as v/u mode. It is easiest to work these satellites with a dual-band rig that allows you to hear both bands at the same time. An alternative is to use two rigs – a 2m rig and a 70cm rig. You need to use a headset or you will get feedback when your voice comes back over the downlink. I will discuss each of the active FM satellites individually, but first, how do you know when these satellites will be passing overhead?

Pass Prediction

Almost all new satellite operators begin by using the Heavens Above website. This website will give you satellite pass information without acquiring and installing a satellite tracking program on your computer. I suggest that you visit the Heavens-Above website (<http://www.heavens-above.com/>) and register as a user (there is no charge). You need to enter your location and that you want pass information for the radio amateur satellites. The website will calculate satellite passes for your location. The three FM satellites are listed in Heavens Above with the names SAUDISAT 1C, AO-Echo and AO-27. The higher the elevation of the pass, the better copy you usually have on the downlink. You will see many other satellites with similar names listed at Heavens Above, so be careful to look for the three FM birds with names exactly as I've given you.

AO-Echo (AO-51)

This satellite was built by AMSAT and launched in 2004. It has a number of different modes, and it is not always in the v/u (2m/70cm) mode. The satellite schedule is posted on the AO-51 Command Team website (<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/echo/ControlTeam.php>). You must check the schedule to see if the satellite is in v/u mode.

Due to Doppler shift, the downlink frequency shifts during the pass. I program my HT for the following downlink frequencies:

| | |
|---------|-------------------|
| 435.310 | Beginning of pass |
| 435.305 | |
| 435.300 | Middle of pass |
| 435.295 | |
| 435.290 | End of pass |

Because Doppler shift on 2m is not as large as on 70cm, I leave my uplink frequency set at 145.920, and you must program in a 67.0 Hz tone. The satellite has a tone access like many terrestrial repeaters use. This satellite is sometimes very crowded on weekends and it is common for many operators to key up at once and no one gets into repeater.

AO-27 (AMRAD OSCAR 27)

This satellite was built by AMRAD and launched in 1993. The NiCad batteries are pretty well worn out, and the satellite is only turned on for a 6-minute window on evening passes. There is a main webpage for AO-27 (<http://www.umbrasi.com/AO27/index.shtml>), and a subpage that lists the satellite schedule (<http://www.ao27.org/AO27/listing.shtml>). You should check the satellite schedule page to see when the bird will turn on. The schedule times are usually within two minutes of the actual time the bird turns on.

Because the satellite is on for 6 minutes and not the entire pass, only four frequencies are needed to receive the AO-27 downlink during a pass:

| | |
|---------|-------------------|
| 436.800 | Beginning of pass |
| 436.795 | |
| 436.790 | |
| 436.785 | End of pass |

An uplink frequency of 145.850 will work for the entire pass, and there is no tone needed on the uplink for AO-27.

SAUDISAT 1C (SO-50)

This satellite was built by the Space Research Institute at King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) in Saudi Arabia and launched in 2002. The satellite transmitter power is only 250 mw making this satellite the toughest of the current FM satellites to hear. One quirk of SO-50 is that the satellite must be turned on by a control signal after it comes up over the horizon. Instructions about how to do this may be found on the AMSAT webpage (<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/satellites/status.php#SO-50>); however, new satellite operators do not need to worry about it because someone else will usually turn the satellite on.

I currently use the following frequencies to receive the SO-50 downlink during a pass:

| | |
|---------|-------------------|
| 436.800 | Beginning of pass |
| 436.795 | |
| 436.790 | Middle of pass |
| 436.785 | |
| 436.780 | End of pass |

The uplink frequency on SO-50 is also affected by Doppler shift, and I use 145.850 in the beginning of a pass, and 145.855 for the last portion of a pass. As on AO-Echo, a 67.0 Hz tone is needed on the uplink signal because SO-50 has tone access.

Additional Background Material

Now that you know which satellites are the FM birds, how to find out when they will be overhead, and what the satellite frequencies are, you should look at a few articles on the AMSAT website for new satellite operators (<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/information/faqs/>). Three articles I would recommend are “The Amateur Satellite Resource Guide” by Mike Seguin, “AO-27 and SO-50 FAQ” by Ray Soifer, and “Working the Easy Sats” by Mike Seguin. “The Amateur Satellite Resource Guide” lists many good references to look at if you have more questions. You will find that a few of the AMSAT articles are a little out-of-date in that some of the satellites they mention are no longer operational; however, the techniques and much of the information is still useful. I would also suggest taking a look at my Amateur Radio Satellite Webpage (www.qsl.net/n5afv).

Equipment

Some of what you read in the AMSAT articles will be useful in deciding what equipment you have that you can use to hear and work the FM satellites. The first step should be to try and listen to a few passes. Even a vertical antenna mounted on a house or vehicle will pick up part of pass; however, there is usually a great deal of fading due to polarity shifts. Many new satellite operators make their first few satellite contacts using vertical antennas, but before the contact is even completed the downlink signal often fades away which causes frustration. Designs for a number of easy-to-build satellite antennas may be found on the K5OE web page (<http://members.aol.com/k5oe/>). A pre-amp sometimes helps receive a larger percentage of a pass. I use an ARR pre-amp (SP432VDG) on the downlink antenna while operate from my vehicle using Alinco DR-605 dual band mobile. With my Icom W32A HT, I use a 30-inch telescoping Premier (Pryme) AL800 antenna and no pre-amp. I can orient the AL800 antenna in almost any direction to compensate for polarity shifts. Many satellite operators also use an HT with the Arrow antenna, a commercial dual-band beam antenna made from aluminum arrow shafts. You can usually get into a satellite with an HT if you don't double with a station running higher power and/or a beam antenna. You won't get in every time you try, but remember, you are just trying to learn a little about satellite operation and see if it interests you.

Conclusion

I hope this information will assist you in trying to hear and maybe even work a few stations on the FM satellites. I made my first satellite contact in July of 2000, and it was more exciting to me than my first DX contact on HF years earlier. I'm too old and not in good enough physical condition to be an astronaut, but I can experiment with space communications and talk through satellites.

UPCOMING FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

December - Home Brew Night.

January – Annual Banquet

February: New Ham/New Member Night

Upcoming Hamfests

Hamfest info for the next few months. More information at: <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html#listing>

San Antonio 2006 Swap Fest & Texas VHF / FM Society Winter Meeting

Little Joe's Country Gold Sat. Jan. 14, 2006
7405 Old Pearsall Road (1 mile outside Loop 410, on
SW side of San Antonio)

Tables: \$6.00 (\$7:00 @ door)

Admission: \$2.00 (\$3 @ door)

<http://w5sc.org/swapfest.htm>

BVARC Greater Houston Hamfest

March 4, 2006

Sugar Land Community Center

See details at the BVARC Website.

Individual's Tables: \$5.00 (\$10:00 @ door)

Commercial Tables: \$10.00 (\$15:00 @ door)

Admission: \$2.00

<http://www.bvarc.org>

RESULTS OF THE November 8th B-VARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION by: John Moore, KK5NU

BVARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, November 8, 2005 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM: Larry Jacobson, K5LJ - John Moore, KK5NU - George Ontko, KM5VP

One examination element was administered during the evening to a single applicant. An upgrade to Extra class was attained; with a total of one element passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

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

James L. Strasen - KC5GXU - Extra

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. - 73

THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

Oct 2005 check-ins

3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00PM

By 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 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.

10/05/05 - K5JWM, N5CPA, W5HFF, K5CEK, KE5SR, KB5SIT, K5LJ, KE5CUT, W5RJA, K5IHV, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KE5CDE, KE5CFF, KB5YM, KZRI, NM5K, W5RH, WO5O, WB5VYR. Check-ins (20)

10/12/05 - K5JWM, K5CEK, KE5SR, N5CPA, K5LJ, KB5SIT, KE5CDE, WA5VRB, W5RJA, KZ5I, KE5CUT, NM5K, W5RN. Check-ins (13)

10/19/05 - K5JWM, KB5SIT, K5CEK, KE5SR, N5CPA, W5RJA, WO5O, WA5VRB, KE5CUT, W5RH, KB5YM, KA5MEI, K5LJ, W5LWR, W5UFK, KE5CDE, K5VRJ, AB5BA, NM5K. Check-ins (19)

10/26/05 - K5JWM, N5CPA, K5CEK, KE5SR, KB5SIT, KB5YM, K5LJ, KA5MEI, W5LWR, W5HFF, KE5CUT, KE5CDE, KE5CFF, K5VRJ, AB5BA, W5RH, WA5VRB, NM5K, KZ5I., K5IHV. Check-ins (20)

2005 Club Officers:

President:

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
n5vcx@worldnet.att.net

Vice President:

Allen Brier, N5XZ
n5xz@arrl.net

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:

Ross Lawler, W5HFF
w5hff@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary:

Joe Morgan, K5JWM
K5jwm@earthlink.net

One Year Board Member:

Robert Polanski, KD5YVQ
polinski@swbell.net

Two Year Board Member:

Sid Sherwood, N5ZKD
n5zkd@arrl.net

Past President:

Open position

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 text or 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

Nov. 3, 2005

Mike Hardwick called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:40 pm on Nov 03, 2005 at the Sugar Land Community Center in Sugar Land Texas.

Attendees:

President - Mike Hardwick-N5VCX
Vice President - Allen Brier-N5XZ
Treasurer/Corresponding - Secretary Ross Lawler-W5HFF
Recording Secretary - Joe Morgan-K5JWM
Two-year at large Director - Sid Sherwood-N5ZXD
Two-year at large Director - Robert Polanski-KD5YVQ
Cameron Mitchel-K5CAM
Randy Pollard-AK5G
Frosty-K5LBU

Minutes for November will be presented for reading and approval next month.
Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Was presented to the Board.

New Business: Try to get a Skywarn class set up for around month of March.

Schedule:

November: Chili Supper & Elections
December: Home Brew Night
January: Club Banquet
February: New Ham/New Member Night

Old business: We are now exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code. Contributions to the club are deductible under this code and qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts.

Pump, WA5CYI, is in charge of resurrecting the annual club campout/picnic
Time & Place: Nov 12 2005 at the Coushatte Recreation Ranch between
Sealy and Bellville. Talk-in 146.52

More info and map on website.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

Submitted by Recording Secretary Joe W Morgan-K5JWM

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Monthly Publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.
Serving Amateur Radio for Southwest Houston and Fort Bend County
Club Call sign – KK5W
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. BVARC is a Non-Profit Corporation classified by IRS as 501-(c)-(3).

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.

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December 2005

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

**General Membership Meeting – Homebrew Night
7:30 PM., December 8, 2005**

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