



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

MARCH 2006

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 3

## THE BVARC GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST Saturday, March 4.

This year, we will be having a true hamfest with technical and informational lectures by invited guests, demos, VE (License) exams, emergency vehicles, satellite comms and other activities in addition to the vendors and private tables, tailgating and continuing raffle.

The raffle grand prize this year is an Icom IC-718, all band HF transceiver. There will also be 10 – 15 other prizes given at 15 - 20 minute intervals. All winners' tickets of the early raffle items will be put back into the bin before the grand prize to have an equal chance to win.

### GRAND PRIZE



Icom IC-718 All band HF Transceiver

We are renting additional tables in anticipation of a much larger number of sellers and attendees. See the flyer in this newsletter or [www.houstonhamfest.org](http://www.houstonhamfest.org) for complete details.

### PHOTOS FROM "DISCOVERING AMATEUR RADIO NIGHT"



Mike (N5CVX) and Sam (N5CPA) speaking to the members. Formerly known as "New ham, new member night," Discovering Amateur Radio Night, held on February 9, introduced prospective hams and prospective members to amateur radio. Information was presented about what was needed to become an amateur radio operator. 2 live HF stations were also set up (SSB & CW).



Allen (N5XZ) giving a demo of CW on a live HF rig.

## BVARC License Classes – Code Classes in March

Six (6) students attended the Technician Classes in February. We anticipate that most of these students will be taking this test at the BVARC Greater Houston Hamfest.

We will have a code classe in March. This class will consist of three sessions over three Saturdays. These will take place on March 11, 18 and 25 from 9AM to noon each day.

Classes take place at St. Paul Presbyterian at the corner of Bellaire and SW Freeway. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED; Contact Ross at [W5HFF@yahoo.com](mailto:W5HFF@yahoo.com) or John at [K5IZO@yahoo.com](mailto:K5IZO@yahoo.com) if you wish to attend.

**We need 4 pre-registered attendees for the class to “make.” If we do not receive confirmation from 4 persons, we will call those that did register and reschedule. Do not show up for the first session without pre-registering!**

Ross Lawler, W5HFF, and John Chauvin, K5IZO, will once again be teaching this class. There are no fees and no materials are required. The General Class and Extra Class license classes will be taught the following months.

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### President's Corner

By the time everyone is reading this, the hamfest should be just a few days away. The hamfest committee has really worked hard on presenting a bigger and better event and I want to thank everyone for their hard work. As everyone should know by now, the name of the event was changed to indicate what, we hope, the event will turn into in the future – a hamfest for Greater Houston. From the table registration so far, it looks like we are on our way to have a very large hamfest in the years to come. We are anticipating a sellout crowd this year and will be moving the event to the Fort Bend County Fair Grounds in Rosenberg for 2007. This will allow us to offer overnight camping and Friday night set-up for the vendors as well as having a huge increase in exhibit space. This event is growing and that is due to everyone's hard work. If you would like to help on this year's hamfest, contact anyone on the board or John, K5IZO and let them know. We still need several people to man check-in tables, entrances, table set-up and parking lot duty.

In just a few weeks is the BP MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Tour, the largest 2 day bike tour in the US. This event raises millions of dollars for research and support for people with MS which affects over a million people nationwide. The event uses one of the most reliable communications systems around for ride support – amateur radio. With over 12,000 riders, 3,000 volunteers, and 6,000 spectators, the event requires constant communications over 90 miles route each day. Over 120 operators are needed that can provide communications at any location under any circumstance. Your help is needed for all positions and times. If you would like to get involved and put your license and radio to a very good use, please contact me as soon as possible. Since sleeping arrangements are going fast, early registration is needed so everyone will have a place to sleep. If you need more information, you can call me at 713-771-4625 or you can go to [www.houstonhams.org](http://www.houstonhams.org) . I used to tell everyone that the ride is good practice for a slow moving evacuation from a hurricane. When hurricane Rita hit last year, I found out that I was wrong, the bike ride is faster!

See everyone at the Greater Houston Hamfest!

73

N5VCX

# RESULTS OF THE February 14th 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, February 14, 2006 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus in Stafford.

#### MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Dennis Dietrich, W5DDD, Jeff Fussell, KD5VGE, Larry Jacobson, K5LJ, John Moore, KK5NU, George Ontko, KM5VP

Five examination elements were administered during the evening to five applicants. Four new Technician licenses were attained, and an upgrade to General class license; with the total number of elements passed being 5. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

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

Thomas P. Aitchison - {KE5HLC} - Technician  
Arnold J. Dittmar - {KE5HLB} - Technician  
Jeff Little - {KE5HLA} - Technician  
Rene Padilla - KE5GZC - Element 3  
Michael J. Stone - W5MJS - Amateur Extra

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.

**NOTE: THE MARCH TESTING SESSION WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE BVARC GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST.  
IT WILL NOT BE HELD AT HCC SCARCELLA TECHNOLOGY CENTER.**

Hamfest testing sessions will be at 9 AM and 11 AM. Check in 30 minutes before testing

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**REGULAR 2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY SESSIONS WILL RESUME IN APRIL.**

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## Upcoming Hamfests

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

### BVARC Greater Houston Hamfest

March 4, 2006

Sugar Land Community Center

See details at the BVARC Website and elsewhere in this newsletter.

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

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

Admission: \$2.00

<http://www.houstonhamfest.org>

### Belton Ham Expo

22 April 2006

Temple Amateur Radio Club

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

Talk-in Freq: 146.82- (PL 123.0)

Phone: 254-773-3590 (answering machine picks up after 6 rings)

## Public Service Events needing operators

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### **Baytown YMCA Gator Ride, 7:30 a.m. Saturday, March 04, 2006**

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

Twenty operators for this event in the Baytown area.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at 281-576-5881 or e-mail me at [ka5znx@juno.com](mailto:ka5znx@juno.com)

Thanks, Mike Kingman, KA5ZNX

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### **The Continental Airlines Cycling Classic, Saturday, March 11, 2006**

Ten operators for this event in the Montgomery High school area.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at 936-537-7524 or e-mail at [F16Jock@earthlink.net](mailto:F16Jock@earthlink.net)

Thanks, Jerry Irwin, WA0GLD

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### **Bluebonnet Express**

**8:00 a.m. Sunday, March 12, 2006**

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

Twenty operators for this event in the Prairie View A&M University area. Talk-in will be on the 146.720 minus offset, 123.0 tone repeater.

Volunteers will need to meet 4:30 a.m. Sunday morning at Denny's on FM 1960 just north of Hwy 290. Assignments and tee shirts will be passed out at that time. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 713-826-6917.

Thanks, Mike Hardwick, N5VCX

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### **Tour de Cypress**

**Sunday, March 26, 2006**

Twenty operators for this event in the west Houston area. Talk-in will be on the 444.075 plus offset, 141.3 tone repeater.

Volunteers will need to meet 4:30 a.m. Sunday morning at Denny's on Fry road just north of Instate 10.

Assignments tee shirts will be passed out at that time. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 713-826-6917

Thanks, Mike Hardwick, N5VCX

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### **The Space Race**

**Sunday, April 09, 2006**

Twenty operators for this event in the Clear Lake area.

If you have any questions, please send me an e-mail at [nlance@hal-pc.org](mailto:nlance@hal-pc.org)

Thanks, Nick Lance, KC5KBO

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## ***BP MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Tour***

***Saturday, April 22 & Sunday, April 23, 2006***

Sign up to be an operator for this year's BP MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Tour. You need to sign up as soon as possible to insure that sleeping arrangements are reserved. For this event 125 operators are needed for communications. Some of the positions are:

- Net Control in Bellville, Houston, LaGrange and Austin.
- Break Point operators
- SAG and Supply communicators
- Medical Communications
- Houston and LaGrange Command Post communicators.

**The Houston Command Post this year will be coordinating medical communications for the entire course. More operators will be needed to man the operating positions in Houston for medical communications.**

This is one event that really can test you and your equipment under disaster type communications.

You can sign up at [www.houstonhams.org](http://www.houstonhams.org) or by calling me at 713-771-4625.

By volunteering for the MS150 you are putting your license and radio to a good use.

Thanks, Mike, N5VCX

# 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST

**Grand Prize**  
**IC-718**

[www.bvarc.org](http://www.bvarc.org)

Formerly the "BVARC Mix-N-Match Swapmeet"

Saturday, March 4, 2006 - 9 am - 1 pm

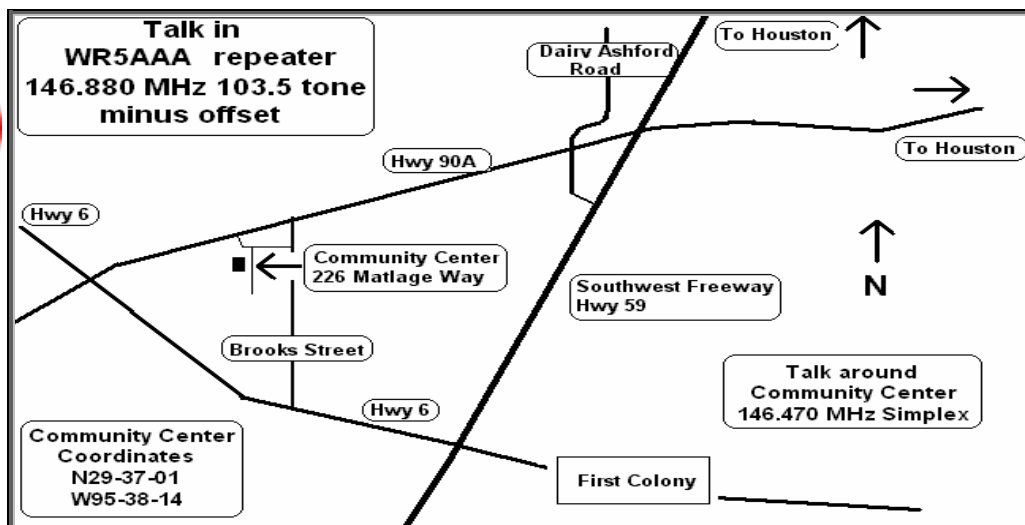
Community Center, 226 Matlage Way, Sugar Land, TX (setup 8 am)

**Admission:** \$2 per person - children under 14 FREE!

- ★ Tables: Club members - 1 table free, \$5 each advanced purchase / \$10 at the door  
Non members - \$5 each advanced purchase / \$10 at the door  
Commercial - \$10 each advanced purchase / \$15 at the door - includes one admission

Go to <http://www.houstonhams.org/2006TableSignup.html> to register for tables

- ★ Tailgate: \$5 per vehicle - includes one admission
- ★ Programs: Amateur Radio for Tomorrow – David Woolweaver, K5RAV West Gulf Vice Director  
BPL in Houston Update – Kent Marshall, W5TXV  
ARES Hurricane Review – Jerry Reimer, KK5CA  
Mini training seminars on antennas, transmitters, receivers and grounding
- ★ Raffles: Tickets are one for \$1 and six for \$5  
Grand Prize & Boat Anchor - drawing at noon – need not be present to win grand prize
- ★ Displays: Amateur and Public Safety Emergency Communications Vehicles
- ★ Testing: 9 am & 11 am – Sign up 30 minutes before testing – Bring photo ID & copy of license



**KK5W**  
Club Call

Contact Mike, N5VCX at 713-771-4625 or 713-826-6917 or [n5vcx@arrl.net](mailto:n5vcx@arrl.net) or  
Ross, W5HFF at 281-701-7602 or [w5hff@yahoo.com](mailto:w5hff@yahoo.com) for Hamfest information

# Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

## Minutes of the February 2, 2006 meeting; Board of Directors

Mike Hardwick called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:30 PM on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006 at the Denny's Restaurant, Sugar Land Texas.

### Attendees:

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX (Pres.)

Allen Brier, N5XZ (V P)

Ross Lawler-W5HFF (Treas./Cor. Sec.)

Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.)

Robert Polinski, KD5YZQ (1-Yr. Dir.)

Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM (Past Pres.)

John Chauvin, K5IZO

Charles Frost, K5LBU

Minutes for the January 2006 meeting was presented for reading and approved. Secretary/Treasurer's Report was presented to the Board. Club has \$1,5219.39 in assets and \$120.56 in liabilities.

### New Business:

145.45 repeater discussion shelved until next board meeting.

### Old business:

1. Board meetings will now be on 1st Thursday, 7:30PM; alternating between the Denny's Hwy. 6, Sugar Land and US59/Gessner, Houston.
2. General meeting activities were discussed.  
February: \_\_ Discovering Ham Radio Night  
March: \_\_\_\_ Skywarn (tentative)  
April: \_\_\_\_ Saltgrass Network (suggested)  
May: \_\_\_\_ ARES (suggested)  
June: \_\_\_\_ African DX Expedition (suggested)  
July: \_\_\_\_ AMSAT (suggested)
3. Again BVARC needs storage space for club property. Sid Sherwood is still storing everything at his house.
4. Gene Horr had informed the board that he plans to move from his current house into an apartment. The board anticipates that this would make his printing the newsletter impossible and made tentative plans to use commercial printers for the newsletter.
5. Pete Sauermilch will now be back-up webmaster.
6. Discussion of Field Day, possible by-law changes, and board format shelved until after hamfest.
7. There was limited discussion of the March Hamfest. Inclusive Hamfest discussion was scheduled for Saturday morning at the Viking Den after the Saturday ham breakfast.

### Other business:

1. Hams for Hospitals will have a meeting on Feb. 11. Those interested contact Mike Hardwick.
2. MS150 ride has 13,000 riders registered.
3. Rick Hiller, W5RH, is scanning old BVARC news letters to DVDs.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM**

Submitted by Recording Secretary Peter Sauermilch-KD5QPX

### Houston Amateur Radio Supply

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



## 2006 Club Officers:

President:

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX  
[n5vcx@worldnet.att.net](mailto:n5vcx@worldnet.att.net)

Vice President:

Allen Brier, N5XZ  
[n5xz@arrl.net](mailto:n5xz@arrl.net)

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:

Ross Lawler, W5HFF  
[w5hff@yahoo.com](mailto:w5hff@yahoo.com)

Recording Secretary:

Pete Sauermilch  
[kd5qpx@arrl.net](mailto:kd5qpx@arrl.net)

One Year Board Member:

Robert Polanski, KD5YVQ  
[polinski@swbell.net](mailto:polinski@swbell.net)

Two Year Board Member:

Sid Sherwood, N5ZKD  
[n5zkd@arrl.net](mailto:n5zkd@arrl.net)

Past President / At-large

Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM  
[k5cam@arrl.net](mailto:k5cam@arrl.net)

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## Club Happenings:

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### 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,  
See the website.

### 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 of this edition.

### 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

## 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:

March 17, 7:30p.m., LAFAYETTE CAJUN SEAFOOD  
RESTAURANT, 10829 W. Bellfort at Wilcrest, in Houston.  
April 21, 7:30p.m., TIO PEPE'S SPANISH RESTAURANT  
5213 Cedar in Bellaire.

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## UPCOMING FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

March – TBD – see [www.bvarc.com](http://www.bvarc.com)

April - The Saltgrass Network

May - ARES

June - Field Day + TBD

July - AMSAT

August - Ice Cream Social

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## BVARC Website URL

The original URL still works  
but we now also have

[www.bvarc.com](http://www.bvarc.com) & [www.bvarc.org](http://www.bvarc.org)

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## THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

As this issue goes to press, this information is not available. We will provide  
2 month's of information in the next issue.

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## Monday Night NET Updates

Don't forget the Monday Night Public Service Net starts at **8 pm**, 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:

9/19 - 23 - Joe, k5jwm  
10/3 - 18 - Cam, k5cam  
10/17 - 21 - Sid, n5zkd  
10/31 - 31 - Mike, n5vcx  
11/14 - 22 - Mike, n5vcx  
12/5 - 34 - Cam, k5cam  
12/19 - 22 - Sid, n5zkd  
1/2/2006 - 18 - Sid, n5zkd  
1/16 - 21 - Sid, n5zkd  
1/30 - 22 - Doug, kc5vyz  
2/13 - 30 - Mike, n5vcx

9/26 - 25 - Sid, n5zkd  
10/10 - 24 - Doug, kc5vyz  
10/24 - 25 - Sid, n5zkd  
11/7 - 33 - Cam, k5cam  
11/21 - 19 - Sid, n5zkd  
12/12 - 15 - Mike, n5vcx  
12/26 - 18 - Pete, kd5qpx  
1/9 - 16 - Pete, kd5qpx  
1/23 - 28 - Pete, kd5qpx  
2/6 - 32 - Cam, k5cam  
2/20 - 21 - Sid, n5zkd



Monthly Publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.  
Serving Amateur Radio for Southwest Houston and Fort Bend County  
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BVARC Website: <http://www.bvarc.org>  
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Production Team: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, [k5cam@arrl.net](mailto:k5cam@arrl.net)  
Claude Sessions, K5HFY, [k5hfy@arrl.net](mailto: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 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, additional 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 p.m. on the 146.880 (minus, 103.5 tone) or the 145.45 (minus, no tone) repeater & a rag chew net is held each Wednesday at 7 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 281-701-7602 or [w5hff@yahoo.com](mailto:w5hff@yahoo.com) or the BVARC website at [www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc](http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc).

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**March 2006**

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

**FIRST CLASS POSTAGE**

**BVARC Greater Houston Hamfest, March 4.  
BVARC General Membership Meeting, March 9**

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