



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2006

VOLUME 30 | ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING CHILI SUPPER

PLUS

ELECTIONS & BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS

Thursday - Nov. 9 - 7:30PM - Sugar Land Community Center

Bring your spouse and family, but most importantly, bring your favorite "homebrew" chili. This traditionally very popular event is always a culinary delight. Peppid will be available.

The annual elections are also being held. The positions of VP, Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer and a Director-at-Large are being voted on. If you haven't contacted an officer expressing interest in running for one of these offices, please do so at this time. Contact info is on the last page of this newsletter. After the Nominating Committee submits its slate of nominees, nominations from the floor will also be made.

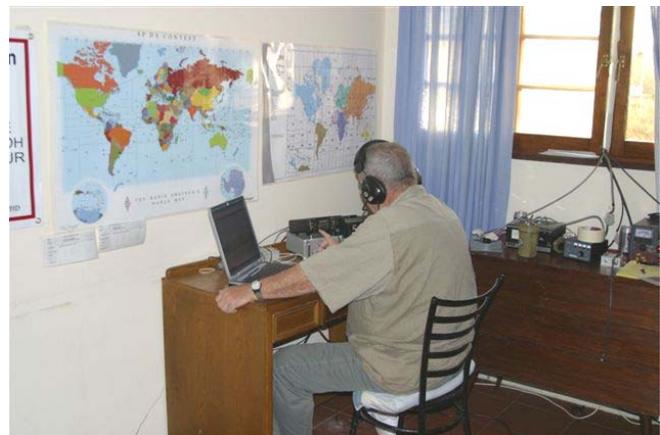
There are 13 "clean-up" by-laws amendments which have been proposed and approved by the board. Most of these are simply clarifying inconsistencies, ambiguities or wording that is no longer relevant. Passage by 2/3 of the membership at a meeting is required. The actual By-Laws Amendment Vote Notice is included in this newsletter. More details are on the web-site.

OCTOBER MEETING PRESENTATION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA DXPEDITIONS

Frosty, K5LBU, gave the presentation in October. It was an interesting combination of scenery, nature and of course the DXpedition.



Frosty, giving the presentation



Frosty operating at the DXpedition

President's Corner

In case you missed last months program, Frosty, K5LBU, gave a DXpedition program on his trip to South Africa . It really looked like the crew really put in a lot of time, effort and energy into the trip which showed in the pictures and the number of contracts. It really was interesting in getting an insight into other countries around the world. I know Frosty is ready to hit the trail again for another one soon!

It is election time again and there will be three positions open – Vice President, Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer, and Director. If you are interested in being on the board, please contact John Moore, KK5NU and let him know. By helping on the board, you are helping the club continue. We need more member involvement in the club so step up to the plate and take a turn.

When it is election time it is chili supper time. As the old times know, the chili supper is a great time at the club to catch up with past members as well as meet new ones. If you would like to help with the Chili supper please contact any board of director and let them know.

In December we have the annual home brew equipment night. Now is the time to get ready to bring your best home built equipment to show it off to the club. There is always a great selection of unique equipment and I always enjoy seeing what someone's effort and energy can produce.

Hope to see everyone at the Chile supper.

73

N5VCX

BVARC 2006 ANNUAL PICNIC & CAMPOUT

Picnic: Saturday, November 11th, 2006

Time: 12:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Location: Coushatte Recreation Ranch

Website: www.coushatte.com

See website for driving instructions

Off State Hwy. 36 Between Sealy and Bellville

Entry fee for picnic: None

Food & beverage: bring your own

In the unlikely event that it rains, we retire to the meeting room.

Talk-In Frequency: 146.52

Sponsor: BVARC & Amateur Radio Campers

Campout: November 8, 9 & 10

Camping Fee: \$17.00 per night, 30 Amp, \$19.00 per night, 50 Amp

Sites have power, water and hookups.

Picnic Information: Call John Whiteman, K5LKJ, 281-530-0432

Houston Amateur Radio Supply

181 Cypresswood Drive

Houston, Texas 77388-6038

800-471-7373 281-355-7373 281-355-8007/FAX

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

TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASSES

The recent Technician License Class was very successful. There were about 35 attendees. At the October VE testing session, of the 10 new Technician License Tests passed, 9 were attendees at the class. We hope to hear of more successes from this class at other VE sessions or the November BVARC VE session.



The Class



John(K5IZO) and Ross (W5HFF) - Instructors

The next class to be taught is being weighed. It will either be another Technician License Class or a General License Class depending on expressed interest. Due to the holidays, the next class will be scheduled to begin in late January or early February. Contact Ross at w5hff@yahoo.com or John at k5izo@yahoo.com if you are interested.

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:

4/17 - 17 - John, k5lkj	7/3 - 13 - Cam, k5cam	8/28 - 21 - Pete, kd5qpx
5/1 - 23 - Cam, k5cam	7/10 - Doug, kc5vyz	9/4 - 19 - Cam, k5cam
5/8 - 17 - Mike, n5vcx	7/17 - 18 - Sid, n5zkd	9/11 - 26 - Mike, k5vcx
5/20 - 13 - Pete, kd5qpx	7/24 - 15 - Pete, kd5qpx	9/18 - 16 - Bill, ke5cut
6/5 - 12 - Cam, k5cam	7/31 - 18 - John, k5lkj	9/25 - 18 - Pete, kd5qpx
6/12 - 17 - Doug, kc5vyz	8/7 - 29 - Cam, k5cam	10/2 - 22 - Cam, k5cam
6/19 - 17 - Sid, n5zkd	8/14 - 20 - Bill, ke5cut	10/9 - 27 - Bill, ke5cut
6/26 - 15 Pete, kd5qpx	8/21 - 22 - Bill, ke5cut	10/16 - 16 - Bill, ke5cut

PROPOSED BVARC BY-LAWS CHANGES

In accordance with the requirements of the BVARC By-Laws, this constitutes notice of the proposed By-Laws amendments to be voted on at the November General Membership Meeting, on November 9, at 7:30 at the Sugar Land Community Center.

Refer to the BVARC web-site at www.bvarc.org for

- a) The current By-Laws
- b) A detailed discussion of the reasons for each of the proposed by-law amendments.

The vote will initially be taken for a simultaneous approval for all 13 amendments as proposed. A 2/3 vote of the members present is required for passage of a by-law amendment. In the event that the simultaneous 13 amendments vote does not pass, then each of the numbered items will be voted upon individually.

1. Amend Article I, Section C, Paragraph 2 to read:

Student membership: A student will be defined as an individual who is a full time student as defined by the respective accredited school including public or private school, college, junior college, university or trade school. Student may verify full time status by a current student ID showing full time status or other as acceptable to the Treasurer.

2. Amend Article I, Section D, Paragraph 3 to read:

Non-payment of annual dues by due date. The member does not have any rights as a member, director or officer while the dues are lapsed, but if the member pays the outstanding dues within 45 days of the due date, the member will be fully reinstated retroactive to the original due date with full continuity.

3. Amend Article 1. Section D, termination reason 2 to read as follows:

By majority vote of members present at a regular or special membership meeting. In the event of such termination, the terminated member shall receive a pro-rata refund of dues paid. For a life member, the refund shall consist of monies remaining as if he had paid the regular dues annually.

4. Amend Article II, Section C Para. 1.a. to read:

Change the words “. . . selecting a list of one (1) proposed candidate . . . ” to “. . . selecting a list of at least one (1) candidate . . .”

5. Amend Article III, Section E, Paragraph 4 to read:

To prepare for each regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting an itemized statement of monies received and disbursed since the last regular board of directors meeting.

6. Amend Article IV, Section A, Lead-In Paragraph to read:

“ The Board of Directors shall consist of the five (5) Officers of the club, and two (2) at large members, elected at the regular membership meeting in November and the Past President/Past President At-Large as described in Article IV, Section A, Paragraph 2.

7. Amend Article IV, Section A, Paragraph 2 to read:

In addition, the immediate past president of the Club shall be a member of the Board of Directors during the first calendar year following his term as President of the Club. The Past President will be considered as an at large member with all rights herein. The position becomes vacant and is then treated as a recurring elected at-large board member with a 1 year term until the incumbent president is no longer in office.

8. These two by-laws must be voted on at the same time:

8a. Amend Article V, Section B to read: There shall be one (1) regular membership meeting each calendar month. It will take place on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Sugar Land Community center.

8b. Amend Article V, Section F to read: The Corresponding Secretary shall notify members of the Club of any special meetings by written notice to be mailed at least seven (7) calendar days prior to the date of the meeting. Any proposed by-laws amendments are to also be mailed at least seven (7) calendar days

prior to the date of the meeting in which the vote will take place. These notices may be satisfied by inclusion in the Club newsletter, if feasible and timely.

9. Amend Article V, Section G, Paragraph 1 to read: The board of directors shall meet monthly on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM at a location voted upon at a previous board of directors meeting unless changed by a majority of the board members. Special meetings may be called by either a majority of the board members or the Chairman with 7 days notice either in writing or by verbal contact with each Board member.

10. These two By-Laws amendments are to be voted on simultaneously.

10a. Add to Article IV, Section A, lead-in paragraph the following sentence – A member holding 2 or more such offices in accordance with Article III, Section F shall have only one vote on the Board of Directors.

10b. Change Article V, Section G, Paragraph 2, second sentence to read: Such quorum shall be defined as a majority of eligible Board members, at least one (1) of whom must be an at large director. In determining the majority, a multiple board position holder shall count as one Board member.

11. Change Article VI, Section C, last sentence to read – Non-payment of annual dues by the renewal date shall result in termination of membership in accordance with Article 1, Section D, Paragraph 3.

12. These two by-laws must be voted on simultaneously.

12a. Amend Article VII, Section B to read: All checks issued by the Club shall be signed by the President, Vice President or the Treasurer.

12b. Amend Article VII, Section F to read: The expenditure of Club funds shall be left to the unilateral discretion of the authorized signatories up to \$100 per check, but not to total more than \$300 per month. Higher amounts must be authorized by a majority vote of the Board of Directors or the members present, either in person or by proxy, at a board of directors meeting or a majority vote at a club regular membership meeting.

13. Amend Article IX, Section A to read: The By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote at a general membership meeting wherein proper notice has been given.



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

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, October 10, 2006 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
John Moore, KK5NU
George Ontko, KM5VP

Fifteen examination elements were administered during the evening to fifteen applicants. Ten new Technician licenses were attained; and two upgrades to Amateur Extra, with the total number of elements passed being 12. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 80%.

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

Michael B. Bowling	- {KE5KVX} - Technician
William L. Cockrell	- {KE5KVV} - Technician
Thomas R. Fox	- KD5UHL - Extra
Tony L. Garcia	- {KE5KVV} - Technician
Robert W. Hall	- {KE5KVU} - Technician
Sherry L. Hayes	- {KE5KVT} - Technician
Aslam P. Jamal	- {KE5KVS} - Technician
John R. Moore	- {KE5KVR} - Technician
Willie Rodriguez	- {KE5KVQ} - Technician
Roy L. Ross	- {KE5KVP} - Technician
John D. Rossi	- KE5IKZ - Extra
David D. Spilman	- {KE5KVO} - Technician

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.

..... 73

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Moonlight Bicycle Ramble 2 A.M. October 29, 2006 Downtown Houston

Needing 15 operators to work this event in downtown Houston. Operators will be meet at the **IHOP on Hwy 59, just east of Kirby at midnight** for maps and tee shirts. Talk-in and event will be on the 147.000 103.5 tone repeater. Event is from 2 am (1 am when you sent your clocks back) to around 4 am. You should bring fold out chairs and lots of flashlights for the event. Call me at 713-826-6917 if you would like more information.

Thanks,
Mike Hardwick
N5VCX

<http://www.bikehouston.org/content/view/292/40/>

Novemberfest Metric Century November 11, 2006 San Felipe (Near Sealy)

Needing 20 operators for a multiple route bike ride. Event starts at 7 am and will last to about 3 pm. Barbecue and tee shirts are provided.

Event and talk-in will be on the 444.075, 141.3 tone repeater.

Operators will meet at the Denny's on Fry road, just north of Interstate 10 at 4:30 am for tee shirts and maps.

If you need any more information please contact me at 713-826-6917.

Thanks,
Mike Hardwick
N5VCX

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Minutes of October 5th, 2006 meeting; Board of Directors

The October 5th monthly Board of Directors meeting for The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club failed to have enough directors to make a quorum. The attempted meeting was from 7:30 to 8:00 PM at the Live Oak Grill, 12935 Dairy Ashford Rd, Sugar Land. Attending were: Ross Lawler, W5HFF (Treas./Cor. Sec.); Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.); Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM (At Large); Charles Frost, K5LBU; Ron Dearman, N5RLD; Bill Stone KE5CUT; Randy Pollard, AK5G

Submitted by Recording Secretary Peter Sauermilch-KD5QPX

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: - **RESUMED!**

Claude Sessions, k5hfy, has kindly volunteered to shepherd the Third Friday Dinners. The November dinner will be at Tio Pepe Restaurant at 5213 Cedar in Bellaire at 7:30 PM, Friday, Nov. 17.

Gain – An Observation

Rick Hiller – W5RH

Unfortunately, what I am about to tell you is not an ‘energized light bulb over the head’ break through. It is simply an observation of technical fact.

I was using the EZNEC modeling program to increase the forward gain of my single element, 40 meter W5RH DX Delta Loop. I wanted to improve its pattern toward ‘the land down under’. I knew that I needed to maintain the already low angle of radiation -- 15 degrees. In order to do that and keep the array physically close to the ground (just above my roof level), it needed to remain vertically polarized. So the physical and RF characteristics or limitations were in place and understood. Being in Sharpstown, I needed to generate this gain improvement within my back yard.

The path to more gain from a single element antenna is a move toward parasitic arrays, extended arrays or driven arrays (i.e. Yagi-Uda’s, EDZ’s or W8JK’s respectively). Yagi-Uda’s, although easier to implement will not give as much gain as a driven array, and an EDZ -- Extended Double Zepp, is a way to get driven array gain without the typical dual feed point of the driven array. Each has its merits and caveats.

I modeled all of the possible 40 meter configurations for both driven and parasitic arrays. I even modeled a side by side driven, but shortened, delta loop array, which amazingly, fit within my yard. (*I envisioned implementing it by hanging it under a 17 meter EDZ made from aluminum tubing at 45 feet...the 17 meter EDZ is another story in itself.*) I coaxed and coerced as much gain out of these wires and arrays that I could muster EZNEC to squeeze. In the end, for those 10 hours of modeling and analysis, I went from a single element delta loop with 2.9 dBi gain at 15 degrees primary launch angle, to 2 delta loop elements with 6.9 dBi gain at 15 degrees. 6.9 dBi was the best gain figure of all of the arrays modeled and it occurred with the “fore and aft” driven array. So far, so good in the virtual world. However, in order to physically implement this 2 element array to get the 4dB increase, I would still have to 1) put up a 32 foot long aluminum boom support at 45 feet, 2) build a second element, and 3) design and build a phasing network to feed this beast. So I had “miles to go before I’d DX”.

A 4dB increase in transmit gain is good. It took a lot of analysis, thought and modeling to get that 4 dB and it would certainly help in making my thrice weekly skeds with VK3CWB easier to accomplish, or at times even just possible with my 100 watt barefoot signal. However, as I sat in front of my Kenwood Transceiver the other evening trying to dig a signal out of the mud.... IF Shift, RF Gain, Narrow Filter came into play in order to improve things. One last button remained – “Pre-amp”. I thought as I pushed it –“hmmm...20 dB gain”. Holy Toledo!!! A simple push of a button gave me 20 dB....20 dB !!! – 5 times the 4dB transmit gain I labored hours on the computer to attain and had not yet proven in the physical realm. A single stage, in the receive chain of a modern day HF transceiver, gave me a real 20dB gain.

Receiver gain – appreciate the ease of acquisition.

Antenna gain – relish the enlightenment.

W5RH – rhiller@sdicgm.com

Nicaragua Dxpediton

“Frosty,” K5LBU will be part of the TXDS Dxpediton going to Nicaragua in time for the Oct. 28/29 CQ WW SSB Contest. Try to work Frosty during this event. They will be using the call - **YN2EJ**

Go to the Dxpediton website for more information: <http://www.tdxs.net/YN2.html>

2006 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:

Pete Sauermilch
kd5qpx@arrl.net

One Year Board Member:

Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ
polinski@swbell.net

Two Year Board Member:

Sid Sherwood, N5ZKD
n5zkd@arrl.net

Past President / At-large

Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM
k5cam@arrl.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,
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 145.47 (XXXX PL) at 8:00
PM

UPCOMING FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

November – Chili Supper

December – Homebrew Night

January – Annual Awards Banquet

Upcoming Hamfests

Hamfest info for the next few months. More information at:

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html#listing>

November 3rd and 4th

4th Annual Austin Radio Roundup Swapmeet and Banquet

VFW Post 8787- N. Of Braker on IH35 N access rd.

Camping & RV parking welcome! \$5 RV Hookups, \$5 to dump- 836-8767
(VFW)

Friday night vendor setup, Dinner Party & Entertainment

Sat setup 7AM, open to public 8AM-noon Talk-in 146.94(-)

Fri & Sat Grand Prizes- TBD

Swapfest table reservations- Lori KM5MQ@arrl.net 512-255-6753

4 Nov 2006

8th Annual Coastal Bend Hamfest

South Texas ARC

Corpus Christi, TX Ortiz Center [402 Harbor Drive](#)

<http://www.n5crp.org>

Talk-In: 147.060 (+ off set and 107.2 tone)

Contact James Ermis, AD5TC

5054 Merganser Drive, orpus Christi, TX 78413

Phone: 361-886-2861

13 Jan 2007

San Antonio Radio Club

San Antonio, TX

Little Joe's Country Gold [7405 Old Pearsall Road](#)

<http://w5sc.org/>

Talk-In: 146.94 - (PL 179.9) & 444.100 + (PL 179.9)

Contact J. C. Smith, N5RXXS

PO Box 34263

San Antonio, TX 78265-4263

Email: n5rxs@satx.rr.com

March 3, 2007

GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST

Featured speaker:

Coy Day - ARRL West Gulf Division Director

Mark your calendars now. BVARC has 3 times the indoor space
than previous hamfests. Go the BVARC webpage,

www.bvarc.org for details.



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.bvarc.org>
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 area. BVARC is a Non-Profit Corporation classified by IRS as 501-(c)-(3).

Today **BVARC** is truly a general interest amateur radio club 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. 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 145.47 (minus offset, PL 123 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 281-342-3340 or w5hff@yahoo.com or see the BVARC website: www.bvarc.org

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November 2006

**BRAZOS VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 2997
SUGAR LAND, TX 77487-2997
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

**General Membership Meeting – November 9 –
Chili Supper, Elections & By-Laws Amendments .**

*If your mailing label is
highlighted in color, it's time
to renew your membership!*