



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

MARCH 2007

VOLUME 31 ISSUE 3

Don't Forget! GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST 8 am Saturday, March 3 Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds

This year there is 3 times the indoor square footage with overnight camping available as well as Friday night set-up. We are hosting the ARRL South Texas Convention this year for the first time. There will be specialty exhibits indoors as well as an emergency communications vehicles display. There are 2 VE sessions on-site. Grand Prize is an ICOM IC718 which you do not need to be present to win. Other door prizes will be given away throughout the day! For more details and a map see the flyer inside.

We expect this to be the largest hamfest that Houston has possibly ever seen!



N5VCX trying to explain what was going on!

February Meeting Big Success!

The BVARC road trip in February was a great success with over 30 members attending the program at the Fort Bend County EMROG building in Richmond. We want to thank Fort Bend County for letting the program and the excellent tour!



I know everybody is wanting their shack to look like this!



WS5H and his wonderful program

MARCH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, THURSDAY, MARCH 8

The March meeting will be on Power Line safety presented by Centerpoint. They will demonstrate the dangers of working around power lines and what you need to do when erecting antennas near the lines. Hope to see everyone there!

President's Corner

By the time you are reading this the Greater Houston Hamfest will be only a week away. The Hamfest is in full swing and there are still several openings open if you would like to help. I want to thank everyone for their hard work on putting the hamfest together. Without their help the hamfest would have not got off the ground. As we continue to work each year for a bigger and better hamfest, we learn more on how to have a successful one for the Houston area. Hopefully in a few years the hamfest will be able to host the West Gulf Division Convention and put Houston back on the map with hamfests!

I want to thank everyone at Fort Bend County EMRORG for the wonderful program and tour of their facility last month. Their facility shows that amateur radio does have a vital part in emergency communications and will be there for years to come.

Hope to see everyone at the hamfest!

73,
N5VCX

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:

8/28 - 21 - Pete, kd5qpx	10/23 - 21 - Pete, kd5qpx	12/18 - 22 - Sid, n5zkd
9/4 - 19 - Cam, k5cam	10/30 - 24 - Doug, kc5vyz	1/1 - 15 - Cam, k5cam
9/11 - 26 - Mike, k5vcx	11/6 - 31 - Cam, k5cam	1/8 - 22 - Bill, ws5h
9/18 - 16 - Bill, ke5cut	11/13 - 22 - Bill, ke5cut	1/15 - 18 - Bill, ws5h
9/25 - 18 - Pete, kd5qpx	11/20 - 14 - Bill, ke5cut	1/22 - 22 - Pete, kd5qpx
10/2 - 22 - Cam, k5cam	11/27 - 19 - Cam, k5cam	1/29 - 18 - Doug, kc5vyz
10/9 - 27 - Bill, ke5cut	12/4 - 22 - Cam, k5cam	2/5 - 28 - Cam, k5cam
10/16 - 16 - Bill, ke5cut	12/11 - 35 - Bill, ws5h	2/12 - 19 - Cam, k5cam

Houston Amateur Radio Supply

181 Cypresswood Drive
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800-471-7373 281-355-7373 281-355-8007/FAX
Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM to 3 PM

Repair most brands of radios, amps, and other gear
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<http://texasparadise.com/hars/> George DiLetto KD0RW

EPO THE ELECTRONIC SOURCE

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Southwest Houston
between Richmond & Westpark

FCC modifies the Amateur Radio Service rules, eliminating Morse code exam requirements. The new rules become effective at 12:01 AM Eastern Time Friday February 23, 2007. Once the changes are in effect, all Technician licensees -- whether or not they have passed a Morse code examination -- will have "Tech Plus" operating privileges. Technicians will now have all the current VHF/UHF and above frequencies and also will have access to the Novice/Technician Plus frequencies on HF.

GENERAL CLASS LICENSE CLASSES – Starting March 17.

Ross Lawler, W5HFF and John Chauvin, K5IZO will be teaching license classes again in 2007. The first will be a General Class License Class. With the recent changes in the licensing requirements and the license privileges, it is anticipated that many Technician Licensees will want to upgrade to a General Class License.

The classes will be held for 4 consecutive Saturdays, beginning March 17. Therefore, the final class will end the weekend before the April BVARC testing session. Depending on the final lesson plan, each class is expected to last about 3 – 3 ½ hours. The location is yet to be determined, but will be somewhere in the Southwest Freeway Corridor. More details will be given in the March newsletter. If you are interested, please contact Ross or John. Their contact info is given elsewhere in the newsletter.

There is no charge for this class, but you will need a copy of the ARRL General Class License Manual. These are available at Houston Amateur Radio Supply, Electronic Parts Outlet, sometimes at Fry's and other locations. They can also be bought from Amazon.com or ARRL.

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of February 1st, 2007 meeting; Board of Directors, Rev B

Mike Hardwick called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:36 PM on February 1st, 2006 at Live Oak Grill, 12935 Dairy Ashford Rd, Sugar Land. Attending were; Mike Hardwick, N5VCX (Pres.); Allen Brier, N5XZ (V P); Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.); Bill Stone, KS5H (At-Large Dir.); Rick Hiller, W5RH (At-Large Dir.); Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; Charles Frost, K5LBU; Randy Pollard, AK5G

- 1) Minutes for January 2006 meeting were not presented to the board.
- 2) Treasurer's Report was not presented to the Board.
- 3) Old Business (2007 Hamfest):
 - a) Coy Day will not attend because of scheduling conflict. Mr. Woolweaver will in his place.
 - b) We can not acquire soft drinks from sources other than the fair ground management.
 - c) We must hire security for the event. That is already in place.
 - d) Brier presented the current list of speakers.
 - e) All other topics will be addressed after the Saturday breakfast, 2/10/07 at Otto's.
- 4) New business:
 - a) Field Day: We need new coordinators! Any member having interest contact a board member by any means.
 - b) March Board of Director's meeting will be at the Denny's Restaurant, 8199 SW Freeway; Houston.
 - c) The City of Sugar Land has changed how they accept reservations for their meetings spaces. Now parties are allowed to only apply six months in advance for any space. This is done on a monthly cycle. Consequently we must physically present an application to the city offices each month for a space six month into the future. Currently we have no reservation with the city for June '07. Alternative spaces are available but not yet secured.
 - d) Randy Pollard presented to the board a proposed rule set for members to apply for and use the Club Calls. The board is considering the proposal.
- 5) Schedule:
 - a) February: Discovering Amateur Radio Night, will be at the Fort Bend Office of Emergency Management.
 - b) March: Power Line Safety, tentative
- 6) Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary Peter Sauermilch-KD5QPX

BVARC Historical Vignettes – Sharpstown Mall Mothers Day Event

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

Throughout the years, BVARC has been known for its public service events. One of the longest running public service events in the early days of the club was the Mothers Day Event held at Sharpstown Mall prior to Mothers Day each year from 1982 through 1988. Steve Gottlieb WA5OEN chaired the event for the entire 7-year period.

According to minutes from the January 1981 membership meeting, the initial idea for the Mothers Day event was apparently an offshoot of the club's ARRL Field Day activities. There was a discussion in the membership meeting about moving the club's Field Day activity from the Fort Bend County Fair Grounds to a place that would provide more exposure to the public in order to showcase amateur radio.

From the February 1981 newsletter (Vol. 4, No. 2) Stu Lamkin WB5IGG editor:

AT THE JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

After a considerable discussion, a motion was lost which would have resulted in the Club's Field Day activities being held in an area shopping mall as a public relations demonstration of Amateur Radio. It was agreed, however, that the idea deserved developing, not as a Field Day activity, but as a special public relations activity of the Club. Henry N5HF will chair a committee to explore the feasibility of the project.

The following year, on May 1, 1982, BVARC's first Sharpstown Center Mothers Day activity was held, and it was very successful.

From the June 1982 newsletter (Vol. 5, No. 6), Stu Lamkin WB5IGG editor:

REVIEW OF SHARPSTOWN CENTER ACTIVITY ON MAY 1, 1982

Steve Gottlieb WA5OEN

Our first effort at a public demonstration of Ham Radio was a success. Along with excellent cooperation from the Center management, we had a super turnout from Club membership. Some of the highlights were as follows:

- 1) Eight new Club members joined.
- 2) Sixty-four pieces of formal traffic were generated.
- 3) The new B-VARC banner was unveiled.
- 4) Many misconceptions about ham radio or HAM vs. CB resolved.
- 5) Much publicity obtained: (a) KPRC-AM and KfKK-FM, (b) Post and Chronicle newspapers, (c) Ft. Bend Advertiser-Advocate newspaper, (d) Sharpstown Center purchased time and space for an electronic sign near the center –but the sign computer cratered!

I want to thank everybody involved in the project for a job well done, but there are some special thanks due (not necessarily in this order):

- 1) The Brazosport ARC group for their active participation and guidance.
- 2) WD5CTQ's printer for donating time and materials for handouts and signs.
- 3) Everyone who loaned us equipment.
- 4) Sharpstown Center Management.
- 5) Madison Electronics for donating handout books and supporting our Club in general.
- 6) Joyce Tabor for publicity in numerous issues of the Ft. Bend Advertiser-Advocate.

The idea behind this event was quite unique – have the public use the amateur radio traffic system to send greetings to their mothers on Mothers Day. The event was usually scheduled a week or two prior to Mothers Day in order to allow sufficient time for delivery of the messages. Club members in Sharpstown Mall forwarded the messages to the Houston Traffic Net who in turn put them into the national traffic system. The club operated from tables set up in the center of the mall near one of the major stairways which put the tables in an area of heavy traffic. Vents in the ceiling above the tables were used to route coaxial cable up to the roof where antennas were erected. Shoppers could see and hear messages being passed, and hear amateur radio operators talking on the HF bands. The event was very popular.

The Mothers Day event did generate a great deal of amateur radio formal message traffic. For example, in the June 1983 B-VARC Bulletin, it is reported that 344 messages were generated at the event held on April 30, 1983. A total of 169 messages were sent from the mall by 2-meters, and 55 messages were sent from the mall by HF. An additional 120 messages were sent by BVARC participants from their home stations after the display at Sharpstown Mall closed. These messages went to 40 different states and 4 foreign countries. In 1984, a total 350 messages were handled. Approximately 15 to 25 BVARC members participated in this event each year, and the Sharpstown activity generated good publicity for both BVARC and amateur radio.

From the July 1983 B-VARC Bulletin, Stu Lamkin WB5IGG editor:

OUR PRESIDENT SAYS---

Yesterday, I called the FCC with the intention of ordering a Form 610 I needed, both for myself and for the Club stock. What transpired was a conversation with one of their employees that warmed the cockles of my heart!

When I mentioned that I wanted to get several copies for our club use, she asked me what club I represented. I told her it was B-VARC, to which she replied "I've heard some real nice things about your club."

To make a long story short, after our Mother's Day activity at Sharpstown Center, they received numerous phone calls from folks who-- (1) wanted to thank us for our efforts, and (2) asked for information about our hobby and club. Unfortunately, the FCC did not have any information about B-VARC and the inquiries could not be answered by them.

Well, I basically solved that problem by giving the FCC lady my work phone number and the Club mailing address for future inquiries. She said they get many such calls the year around of the same nature, i.e. Who, Where, When, How, etc.

This all confirms the feeling that we don't toot our own horn enough. Let's kick around ideas on publicizing the Club.

Hope everybody enjoyed Field Day, and that I see y'all at the picnic.

73, Steve WA5OEN

The final Sharpstown Mall Mothers Day Event took place on April 30, 1988. I remember it well because I was one of the club members who went up on the roof to set up antennas. The club was all geared up for the event. We had contacted the ARRL for literature to put out on the table, and we planned to demonstrate state-of-the-art amateur television. Little did we know that this would be our undoing.

The event got underway as usual with no hitches. About an hour into the event Roberts Ricketts N5JKD decided it was time to demonstrate amateur television. A television receiver was set up on one of the tables, and Robert began to walk around the Mall with his camera transmitting a live television picture back to the table. About twenty minutes later Mall Security descended on us. Mall rules forbid the use of television or video cameras in the Mall and our television demonstration was shut down. While mall security and management personnel were at the club tables, the ARRL literature caught their eye. Because some of the ARRL literature included an application for membership in the League, it was determined that we were soliciting money from shoppers, and that was also contrary to mall regulations. As a result, BVARC was not welcome at Sharpstown Mall in future years, and a very successful club activity that show-cased amateur radio to the public came to an end after a long 7-year run.

Public Service Events

If you would like to work a public service event, please call Mike at 713-826-6917

The Bluebonnet Express

Sunday

8:00 am March 25, 2007

Bicycle ride fund raiser in the Prairie View areas. Fifteen operators are needed for communications for this event. Operators need at least a VHF mobile radio to volunteer. Operators will meet at 4:30 am at Denny's on FM 1960 just north of Hwy 290 for maps and final instructions.

Brookwood Spirit Rally

Saturday

8:00 am April 14, 2007

Bicycle ride fund raiser in the Katy and Brookshire areas. Ten operators are needed for communications for this event. Operators need at least a UHF hand held radio to volunteer. Operators will meet at 5:00 am at Denny's on Fry Road just north of Interstate 10 for maps and final instructions.

MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Tour

Saturday and Sunday, April 21 - 22, 2007

Premier fund raising bicycle event for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. This is a 2 day bicycle ride from Houston to Austin that raised over \$11 million last year MS research. Over 100 radio operators are needed for this event over the 2 days. Positions include medical transportation support as well as command post operators.

6th Annual Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST

Hosting the

ARRL South Texas Section Convention

Saturday, March 3, 2007 - 8 am - 2 pm

Set-up Friday 4 pm to 10 pm and Saturday 7 am to 8 am

Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Rosenberg, Texas

New Location! Over 18,000 sq feet of indoor exhibit space!

Overnight Camping Now Available! Special Motel Rates Available!

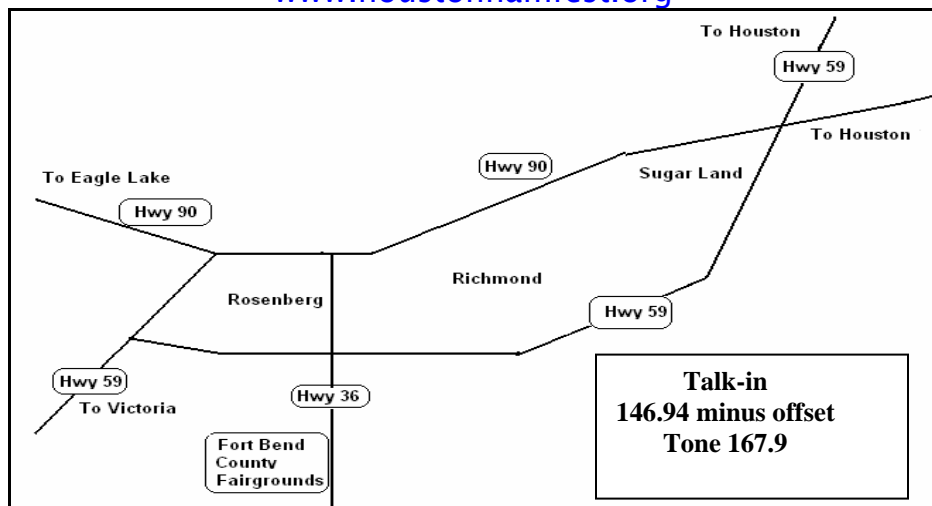
Admission: \$5 per person - includes one raffle ticket

Children under 14 FREE!

**Featured Speaker – Dr. David Woolweaver, K5RAV, ARRL West Gulf Division
Assistant Director**

- ★ **Tables:** Club members - 1 table free, \$5 each prepaid purchase / \$10 at the door – plus admission
Non members - \$5 each prepaid purchase / \$10 at the door - admission extra
Commercial - \$10 each prepaid purchase / \$15 at the door - includes one admission
- ★ **Tailgate:** \$5 per vehicle - includes one admission
- ★ **Programs:** Mini training seminars; APRS demonstrations and other featured speakers
- ★ **Raffles:** Tickets are one for \$1 and six for \$5
Grand Prize & Boat Anchor - drawing at 1 pm – need not be present to win grand prize
- ★ **Testing:** 9 am & 11 am – Sign up 30 minutes before testing – Bring photo ID & copy of license
- ★ **Displays:**
 - Amateur and Public Safety Emergency Communications Vehicles
 - Food Concession
 - Club donation table
 - Club surplus sales table
 - ARRL information
 - ARES information
- ★ **Contact:** Mike, N5VCX at 713-826-6917 or n5vcx@arrl.net for information about the Hamfest

www.houstonhamfest.org



KK5W

Club Call

**Talk-in
146.94 minus offset
Tone 167.9**



2007 BP MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Tour

Amateur Radio Volunteer Information

Do you think you can handle communications for emergencies or disasters or medical situations? Can you quickly install your radio equipment into emergency vehicles to help provide communications? If you would like to find out how to be better prepared for emergency communications while helping a worthy cause, then sign up to volunteer to help with communications for the BP MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Tour. Amateur radio communications is the primary communications for the MS150, providing reliable communications for the entire 2-day bike ride from Houston to Austin. Operators are assigned to critical locations along the route as well as being assigned to important individuals and groups during the event. The positions that amateur radio operators are assigned to are:

- **Break points** – Providing communications for supplies and medical problems at break points on the route. – This can be just a few hours to a full day commitment. It is dependent on the location.
- **Medical vehicles** – Operators ride in ambulances and First Responder vehicles for emergency medical communications during the event. – This is 2 day commitment
- **MS150 Staff** – Operators ride with MS150 staff to provide communications for important issues and problems during the ride. – This is 2 day commitment
- **SAG vehicles** – Provided communications for the SAG drivers who are on the course picking up riders that have mechanical problems or that can no longer ride. – This is 2 day commitment
- **Supply Trucks** – Provide communications for the supply trucks so supplies can be routed to the needed locations to deliver supplies and materials. – This is 2 day commitment
- **NET Control** – Net controls operations are set up in Houston, Bellville, LaGrange and Austin. There are two NETS running at all times and many operators are needed to cover this very important position. - This is a 1 or 2 day commitment depending on your location.
- **Houston Command Post** – The command post interacts with medical incidents, and other problems on the ride. The command post monitors the ride on HF, VHF or UHF amateur bands. Medical vehicles are tracked with APRS units along the entire course and the information is relayed to the course medical coordinator. The command post is set up to receive calls from event personnel and emergency services along the route through an 800 telephone number to coordinate emergency calls and situations. - This can be a one hour commitment to two days. The command post is open from noon Friday to midnight Sunday so many operators are needed to fill this long time period.
- **Motorcycle Marshals** - If you have a motorcycle and an amateur radio license, you can help out with the Motorcycle Marshals that needs volunteers that have a amateur license as well as a motorcycle. With an amateur radio on your motorcycle you can be in contact with the action on the ride, providing valuable information for the safety of the participants. Contact Jerry Irwin, WA0GLD, the Motorcycle coordinator, at F16Jock@earthlink.net

Amateur radio volunteers need a least a 2 Meter/VHF radio (VHF/UHF dual band preferred) that has a minimum of 25 watts output and a gain type magnetic mount antenna (1/4 wave antennas do not work). If assigned to an event vehicle, you must be able to easily transfer between vehicles since assignments do change during the event. Food and sleeping areas (bed linens not provided) are available along the route on Saturday and Sunday by the NMSS organization. A secure parking area will be provided for your vehicle in Houston or Austin if needed. Transportation is available back to Houston for the volunteers that are assigned to event vehicles. More information on the MS 150 ride is available at www.ms150.org.

Volunteer hours begin at 4:00 am sharp on Saturday morning and will end between 8 and 11 pm on Sunday. There are two informational meetings the week before the ride - one on Monday and one on Wednesday. If more information is needed, please go to www.houstonhams.org or call Mike Hardwick at 713-771-4625.

THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

By Joe Morgan, K5JWM

Jan 2007 check-ins
3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00PM
Joe Morgan, K5JWM, Net Coordinator

Just WHAT IS the Rag Chew Net? Well it's a chance for you to get on the low bands and hang out with other B-VARC members, as well as hams from around the south central US!

WHAT?? Don't have voice privileges? Got a short-wave receiver? Dial in and listen, then check in using the telephone number announced at the beginning of each net.

01/03/07__K5JWM, N5CPA, K5CEK, KE5SR, WD6CQO, K5LBU, K5LKJ, W5RH, W5UHZ, WS5H, WA5CYI, N5DTT, KA5MEI.check_ins (13)

01/10/07__K5JWM, N5CPA, K5CEK, KE5SR, K5LJ, WS5H, K5LKJ, KB5SIT, K5LBU, WB5EXI, W5RH, KD7THJ, KZ5I, KD5YOU, WA5VRB. Check-ins (15)

01/17/07__K5JWM, KB5SIT, N5CPA, WS5H, K5LBU, KE5SR, K5CEK, KJ5SS, W5RH, K5LKJ, WA4IIF, K5LJ, KA5MEI, NM5K .check-ins (14)

01/24/07__K5JWM, K5LJ, N5CPA, K5CEK, KE5SR, KD7THJ, KJ5SS, KD5CDE, WS5H, K5LKJ, W5RH, WB5TXI
Check-ins (12)

01/17/07__K5JWM, K5CEK, KE5SR, WA5VRB, W5UHZ, KE5CDE, KB5ELT, K5LKJ, K5LJ, W5RH, WA5GHR, N5CPA, WS5H, KB5SIT, KJ5SS, W5UFK, KD5CFE. Check-ins (17)

RESULTS OF THE February 13th B-VARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION by: John Moore, KK5NU

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio License Examination session that was held on Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Larry Jacobson, K5LJ

John Moore, KK5NU

George Ontko, KM5VP

Nine examination elements were administered during the evening to seven applicants. Two new Technician licenses were attained; one General class upgrade and one Element 3 General class; and two Amateur Extra class upgrades, with the total number of elements passed being 6. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 66.67%.

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

David A. Burton	-	- Technician
Sumner H. Cunningham	- KD5LZA	- Amateur Extra
John A. Knoche	- KE5IXV	- General
Nathan H. Kung	- KD5KOS	- Amateur Extra
Eric A. Maschke	-	- Technician
Eric H. Moeller	- KC5FOG	- Element 3

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

2006 Club Officers:

President:

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
n5vcx@worldnet.att.net

Vice President:

Allen Brier, N5XZ
n5xz@arrl.net

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:

Sid Sherwood, N5ZKD
n5zkd@arrl.net

Recording Secretary:

Pete Sauermilch
kd5qpx@arrl.net

One Year Board Member:

Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ
polinski@swbell.net

Two Year Board Member:

Bill Stone, WS5H
dragwtow@wt.net

Past President / At-large

Rick Hiller, W5RH
w5rh@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.
Tio Pepe's Spanish Restaurant

Rag Chew Net

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

Public Service Net

Monday night on 145.47 (PL 123.0) at
8:00 PM

UPCOMING FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

March – Power Line Safety presented by Centerpoint

Upcoming Hamfests

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

24 February, 2007

Orange Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.qsl.net/w5nd/>

March 3, 2007

GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST

Featured speaker:

Now hosting the

ARRL SOUTH TEXAS SECTION CONVENTION.

Speaker: Dr. David Woolweaver –

ARRL West Gulf Division Assistant Director

Mark your calendars now.

BVARC has 3 times the indoor space than previous hamfests.
Go the www.houstonhamfest.org for details.

April 14, 2007

HAM EXPO, Bell County Expo Center in Belton, Texas

<http://www.beltonhamfest.org>

Talk-in Freq: 146.82- (PL 123.0)

BVARC EATING SCHEDULE

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFASTS:

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

Otto's Bar-B-Que, 7:30 am, Fountains Shopping Center, SW Freeway.

THIRD FRIDAY DINNER

For the month of March we will eat at Tio Pepe's Spanish Restaurant, located
at 5213 Cedar in Bellaire. Last month we had 8 people at Luby's. The food
and company were great !

I hope you all can come to Tio Pepe's
73,

Claude..
K5HFY



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

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 3

March 2007

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

**BVARC Greater Houston Hamfest – Saturday, March 3
BVARC Monthly Meeting – Thursday, March 8**

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