



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

APRIL 2007

VOLUME 31 ISSUE 4

## BVARC APRIL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7:30 PM, Thursday, April 12.

Sugar Land Community Center

**DXpeditions around the world**

by Allen Brier, N5XZ

## BVARC GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST WOW!

For those of you that could not attend, you really missed something. We used 105 eight foot tables in just the main hall alone. Of these about 90 were for people selling their wares. One vendor said that on a scale of 1 to 10, compared to last year, it was a 17. The attendance was approximately 800. For BVARC's first time in this league, we pulled off a grand feat. We learned a lot and next year will alleviate the few problems that we had.

Mark your calendars for March 1, 2008.



Part of the crowd.



Our featured speaker,  
Dr. David Woolweaver, K5RAV,  
ARRL West Gulf Division Vice Director

The array of lectures were excellent. There were 59 applicants at the VE session (see related article). The satellite demos were a big hit! There were literally dozens of raffle / door prizes (see related article). We had 2 tables checking QSL cards. There was Friday night set-up, overnight camping and we hosted the ARRL South Texas Convention. Various demonstrations and emergency vehicles were well attended.



**Just a few of the tailgaters**



**Another of the crowd in the other direction**

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**We will see you next year at the  
2008 BVARC GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST!**

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**President's Corner**

If you missed the Greater Houston Hamfest, you missed a great one. It was fantastic hamfest and everyone had a great time. From all the information that we have it looks like there were nearly 800 people attending the hamfest with 90 tables sold or occupied. This is over twice what happened last year in Sugar Land and I feel that the Greater Houston Hamfest will double again in size next year. Application has already been made to the ARRL for the event as the 2008 South Texas Section Convention and hopefully it will be approved soon. I want to thank everyone for their hard work on this year's hamfest. Now it is onward to the 2008 Greater Houston Hamfest.

The February program was extremely informative and enjoyable. Lance Rumfield, WD5KCX, of Centerpoint Energy, did a wonderful job of expaining power line safety and the dangers associated with erecting antennas near them. Power line safety is something that everyone should practive especially hams who are putting up antennas.

This months program will be presented by Allen Brier, N5XZ our beloved Vice President. Allen will present several videos on DXpeditions around the world. The worst thing about watching the videos is that afterwards you may be ready to take trip to one of the places shown.

April has several other events and happenings and going on. On the 14th is the Brookwood Bike Ride in Brookshire and Belton hamfest in Belton. On the 21st and 22nd is the MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Tour. I know volunteers are still needed to help on both the Brookwood Bike Ride and the MS150.

Around the corner is Field Day and we still need a coordinator or coordinators for it. If you would like to help out for Field day, contact anyone on the board of directors and let them know.

Hope to see everyone at the April meeting.

73  
N5VCX

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# Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

## Minutes of March 1st, 2007 meeting; Board of Directors

Mike Hardwick called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:29 PM on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 at the Denny's Restaurant, 8199 SW Freeway; Houston, TX

Attending were: Mike Hardwick, N5VCX (Pres.); Allen Brier, N5XZ (V P); Sid Sherwood, N5ZXD (Treas./Cor. Sec.); Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.); Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ (At-Large Dir.); Bill Stone, KS5H (At-Large Dir.); Rick Hiller, W5RH (At-Large Dir.); Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; Charles Frost, K5LBU; John Chauvin, K5IZO; Randy Pollard, AK5G; Ross Lawler W5HFF

- 1) The reading of the Minutes for January meeting was tabled to the March meeting by board vote.
- 2) The reading of the Treasurer's Report was tabled to the March meeting by board vote.
- 3) Old Business:
  - a) Hamfest: Final preparations made and assignment status checked.
  - b) Field Day: Search has begun for a multiperson committee who will organize field day.
  - c) June Meeting Location: BVARC again displaced from SL Community Center. Possible alternatives discussed but not yet confirmed.
  - d) Rules for using club call: Brief discussion, action tabled to the March meeting by board vote.
- 4) New business: None
- 5) General Meeting Schedule:
  - a) March: Power Line Safety
  - b) April: BLP (tentative)
  - c) May - July: TBD (to be determined)
  - d) August: Ice Cream Social
  - e) September - October: TBD
- 6) Other Business:
  - a) MS150: Still neet 300 Amateur Radio Operators
- 7) Meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary Peter Sauermilch-KD5QPX

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### MARCH MEETING – REPORT

The March general membership meeting featured Lance Rumfield, WD5KCX from Centerpoint talking on Power Line Safety. He clarified a lot about the various power entities and the safety aspects, especially as related to amateur radio. We thank Lance for giving the presentation.

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George DiLetto KD0RW

## Monday Night NET Updates

Don't forget the Monday Night Public Service Net starts at **8 pm**, 145.47 (PL -123.0) 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:

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
10/23 - 21 - Pete, kd5qpx	12/18 - 22 - Sid, n5zkd	2/19 - 20 - Sid, n5zkd
10/30 - 24 - Doug, kc5vyz	1/1 - 15 - Cam, k5cam	2/26 - Pete, kd5qpx
11/6 - 31 - Cam, k5cam	1/8 - 22 - Bill, ws5h	3/5 - 23 - Cam, k5cam
11/13 - 22 - Bill, ke5cut	1/15 - 18 - Bill, ws5h	3/12 - 23 - Bill, ws5h
11/20 - 14 - Bill, ke5cut	1/22 - 22 - Pete, kd5qpx	3/19 - 17 - Sid, n5zkd

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## BVARC Historical Vignettes – The Genesis of BVARC

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

One day in the fall of 1977, Tom Casey, WA5ACF, and Ed Harwell, W5WVX, were talking on 2-meters and discovered that they both lived in Fort Bend County and they both had a common interest in emergency communications. Tom immediately drove over to Ed's house to continue their conversation. Ed and Tom decided to have a meeting with other ham radio operators to discuss the possibility of starting a group to provide emergency communications for Fort Bend County. Tom made a few telephone calls, and secured a meeting room in the Westbury United Methodist Church, located in southwest Houston at the corner of Bellfort Street and Willowbend Drive.

This organizational meeting was held at the Westbury United Methodist Church on Friday, September 16, 1977. The church happens to be located in my neighborhood several blocks from my house, and when I pass by the church I often think of the founding of BVARC.



The Birthplace of BVARC – Westbury United Methodist Church



The BVARC records do not contain a list of the attendees, but we do know that Roger Cody, N5FN, the ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Brazoria County was present at the meeting. Tom Casey, Ed Harwell and the other amateur radio operators who gathered at the meeting wanted to start an ARES related group. Roger Cody explained that ARES was a service and not an organization, and that the group might consider forming a club or organization. The group immediately decided to form an amateur radio club, and it was agreed to meet two weeks later and elect officers of the new club.



The organizational meeting of BVARC was likely held in this wing of the Westbury United Methodist Church

The first officers of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club were elected at a meeting held on Friday, September 30, 1977 at the Missouri City Fire Station. The officers were President Jerry Albright, WB5HQU, Vice President Wade Eilers, WN5TEN, Secretary Tim Rosen, WB5SGU, Treasurer Dale Williams, WD5AJC, and Activities Manager Ed Harwell, W5WVX. Tom Casey, WA5ACF, applied for and was appointed to the position of ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Fort Bend County.

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club was off and running. The club immediately started a Monday night emergency net, the forerunner of BVARC's present Public Service Net. The first club newsletter was published in March, 1978. That newsletter indicated that the club was already holding a Novice License Class for new hams, and the club roster listed 25 members.

It was observed more than once in the early days of the club that a number of attempts had previously been made to start an amateur radio club in Fort Bend County, but none of these clubs had lasted very long. What was different this time? Why did BVARC succeed where others had failed? Whatever the reasons, all BVARC members can be proud of our club's heritage. BVARC has had a 30-year history of contributing to and serving the amateur radio community of Fort Bend and Harris Counties.

I would like to thank Ed Harwell, W5WVX, for providing us with much of the information about the earliest days of the club. BVARC records contain a copy of a letter written in 1992 in which Ed describes the genesis of BVARC and congratulates the club on its fifteenth birthday. Ed Harwell, W5WVX, is now retired and lives in Tyler, Texas.

## **The Lighter Side of Ham Radio in the Movies by Rick -- W5RH**

If you subscribe to one of the currently popular DVD movie services, put these movies on your “must see” list.

**Pee Wee’s Big Adventure** – Pee Wee heads to St. Peter Is. for a wintry, but magical, DX-pedition.

**Bourne Supremacy** – Swedish Ham, Bourne Wennström, SK3TG, utilizes his massive 80 meter antenna farm to easily sweep the 80 meter CQ World Wide SSB contest.

**Frequency** – An HF DX’er accidentally discovers ELDE’s – Extremely Long Delayed Echo’s decades in length, by using tube gear and a dilapidated Yagi, with only half a director element. His discovery leads him to have multiple QSO’s with his long since deceased, Uncle Jim, ‘2FK’.

**Contact** – An AMSAT member, and avid VHF’er, has daily QSO’s with beings of another world via his 2 meter EME array.

**Steel Magnolias** – An Alabama contester, and his friends, build the ultimate multi-tower antenna farm amongst the indigenous trees of the southern USA.

**Transformers** – The animated fight between the “bifilar torroids” and the “iron core auto’s” has taken it’s toll on saturated transformers everywhere, as it has broken through the electrostatic lines of flux and flowed into the magnetic fields of the AC voltage’s ferromagnetic home land, despite the inherent shielding of the Helmholtz coils. The powdered iron’s reluctance and tightly coupled eddy currents are phased to fight for hysteresis, flux and the Amidon way.

**The Breakfast Club** – a deep east Texas Ham Radio club’s weekly, Saturday morning get together provides the backdrop for antics of all colors and calibers.

**Broke Back Mountain** – 2 hams DX-adventure in going to the top of Broke Back Mountain to work the VHF/UHF contest and they actually work the contest.

**Titanic** – A massive North Atlantic cruise ship on it’s maiden voyage hits an iceberg and ultimately sinks, as the ship’s demented “Sparky” goes crazy and ignores the captains orders to send SOS. All the while, “Sparky” incessantly try’s to work the Clipperton Island DX-pedition on all bands before having to abandon his post.

**World’s Fastest Indian** – Members of the WWII Wind Talkers Communications regiment, hold a high speed CW contest at one of their annual, post war reunions.

**The 5th Element** – An edge of the seat, sci-fi thriller about a New York cab driver and Ham Radio hobbyist. He picks up his ultimate fare and finds that the ride is a crazed, serial, Yagi-Uda designer who is modeling the addition of, yet another, parasitic element, thus pushing the envelope on gain, directivity and front to back ratio.

..... W5RH [rhiller@sdicgm.com](mailto:rhiller@sdicgm.com)

RESULTS OF THE March 3rd  
BVARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION  
by: John Moore, KK5NU

Results of the March 3, 2007  
BVARC Greater Houston Hamfest Exam Session

Fifty seven examination elements were administered during the hamfest to fifty nine applicants. Fifteen new Technician licenses were attained; twenty six General class, and five Amateur Extra class, with the total number of elements passed being 47. The overall "pass rate" for the day was 82.5%.

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

Jeffrey K. Anderson	-	KE5MES	-	General
Julia E. Anderson	-	{KE5NDF}	-	Technician
David E. Barber	-	{KE5NDB}	-	Technician
Dickie J. Bennett	-	KE5HST	-	General
Roger B.A. Bullock, Jr.	-	KC00OX	-	General
Kevin K. Briscoe	-	KE5CDE	-	Extra
Dale G. Brown	-	KC2PZ	-	Extra
Terry M. Bowersmith	-	W5SRG	-	General
Max R. Chalfant	-	KE5AKJ	-	General
Thomas J. Coppock	-	{KE5NDC}	-	Technician
Michael D. Eubanks	-	KD5JFI	-	General
Richard E. Goldy	-	KE5ICK	-	General
Charles L. Hamilton	-	K5DA	-	General
Robert D. Hinz	-	KC5VOA	-	General
Billy R. Jones	-	N5EVD	-	General
Robert A. King	-	N5SPW	-	General
Thomas J. Kleiner	-	KE5MPL	-	General
Kevin B. McParlane	-	KD5TZI	-	General
Kenneth A. Miller	-	W5KAM	-	General
Steven G. Morgan	-	{KE5NDH}	-	Technician
William A. Newton	-	{KE5NDG}	-	Technician
Ronald E. Parker	-	KE5RON	-	General
Raymond Pena	-	{KE5NDI}	-	Technician
Christopher A. Peters	-	{KE5NDJ}	-	Technician
Stephen W. Peters	-	N5SWP	-	General
Chris D. Presley	-	{KE5NDK}	-	Technician
Phillip S. Proctor	-	KD5HTM	-	General
Jonahan R. Richardson	-	KD5FN	-	Extra
Russell G. Richter	-	WP2AHG	-	General
Chet C. Rasch	-	{KE5NDL}	-	Technician
Joe A. Sak	-	KD5ROC	-	Extra
Barbara A. Sanford	-	K5BAS	-	General
Craig E. Schlicher	-	KB2ZEQ	-	General
Marsha E. Shaner	-	KD5GNM	-	General
Merlin E. Shantz	-	KD5FSJ	-	General
Zdravko I. Stefanov	-	{KE5NDM}	-	Technician
Kenneth E. Stevens	-	KD5FSY	-	Extra
Norma J. Stone	-	{KE5NDN}	-	Technician
Jan J. Taylor	-	{KE5NDO}	-	Technician
John E. Taylor	-	KE5HAM	-	General
Jennifer C. Urwitz	-	{KE5NDP}	-	Technician
William M. Vandran	-	KC5HUB	-	General
Raymond E. Watts	-	KC5SNX	-	General
Keith V. Webb	-	{KE5NDD}	-	Technician
William E. Westfall	-	KE5LJV	-	General
Gregory White	-	{KE5NDE}	-	Technician

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Look for some of our new licensees on the local repeaters.

72/73 -- John Moore, KK5NU  
BVARC VE Team Liaison

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## Public Service events

### ***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 6:45 am 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 SAG vehicles, breakpoints, event vehicles, supply trucks, ambulances, medical transportation support as well as command post operators. Sign up now so overnight accommodations can be arranged for you.

There will be 2 communications planning sessions before the ride. One will on Monday, April 16 and one on Wednesday, April 18. You only need to attend one meeting.

Operators will meet at 4:30 Saturday morning on Saturday to be assigned to their vehicles. Due to I10 construction, meeting location will be announced later. Talk-in will be on the 147.000 103.5 tone repeater. Event frequency list will be on the [www.houstonhams.org](http://www.houstonhams.org) web site before the ride.

If you are volunteering for this event, you need to register on [www.houstonhams.org](http://www.houstonhams.org). You will be contacted about your assignment over the next 2 weeks. For people volunteering for two day assignments on the course, you will need to have a sleeping bag and/or linens for Saturday night. All food and transportation is provided for the operators during the event. Minimum equipment requirements for the event is a VHF radio with 25 watts of power and a gain type antenna (19" whip antennas are not gain antennas). A dual band radio is preferred for operators that are assigned in event vehicles. Operators that are assigned at breakpoints will need to try and have a MURS radio. If you are not able to get a MURS radio, please contact me to arrange delivery of one.

If you have any questions about volunteering for the ride, please feel free to call me at 713-826-6917.  
Mike Hardwick, N5VCX



## The 'Faith West - Pedaling the Prairie

**8:00 am Saturday, May 19, 2007**

Bicycle ride fund raiser in the Katy Fulshear areas. Twelve operators are needed for communications for this event. Operators need at least a VHF mobile radio to volunteer. Talk-in and event will be on the 145.19 repeater with a 123.0 tone. Operators will meet at 6:00 am at the Jack-in-the-Box at Katy Mills Mall just south of Interstate 10 for maps, final instructions and tee shirts. Contact Doug Woodruff, KC5VYZ, (281) 232-8452 or [kc5vyz@arrl.net](mailto:kc5vyz@arrl.net)

## Ride for Scouting

**8:00 am Saturday, May 19, 2007**

Bicycle ride fund raiser in the Prairie View areas. Ten 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.

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## THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

*By Joe Morgan, K5JWM*

Feb 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 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.

02/07/07\_\_K5JWM, N5CPA, KE5CDE, W5UHZ, K5CEK, KE5SR, K5LJ, WS5H, W5TMP, W5RH.check\_ins (10)

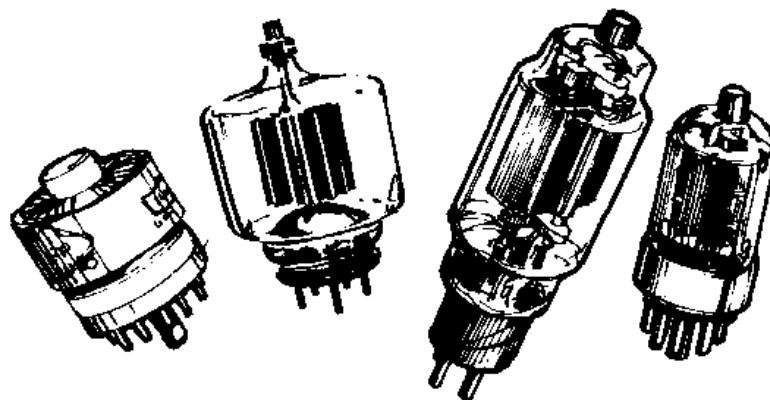
02/14/07\_\_K5JWM, K5CEK, KE5SR, N5CPA, KJ5SS, KZ5I, KB5SIT, KC9JUS, WA5VRB, N4EGR, WA5CYI, W5RH, K5LKJ, KD5CIU, WB5EXI. check\_ins (15)

02/21/07\_\_K5JWM, K5CEK, KB5IEJ, KE5SR, KB5SIT, W5RLW, KJ5SS, WS5H, N5CPA, W5LWR, K5HFY, K5LJ, WA5CYI, N5RFT, KE5CDE, W5RH, KC9HYL, .check\_ins (17)

02/28/07\_\_K5JWM, KB5LKE, KJ5SS, N8NOV, W5UHZ, WSRH, K5LBU, K5LKJ, KC5HFM, N5CPA, KG5KV, K5LJ, KE5CDE, WA5VRB, KE5CFF, KA6QDE check\_ins (16)

01/17/07\_\_K5JWM, K5CEK, KE5SR, WA5VRB, W5UHZ, KE5CDE, KB5ELT, K5LKJ, K5LJ,W5RH, WA5GHR, N5CPA, WS5H, KB5SIT, KJ5SS, W5UFK, KD5CFF. check\_ins (17)

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**BVARC GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST  
GRAND PRIZE WINNER**



Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, BVARC President awarding the grand prize, a new ICOM-718 Transceiver, to the Hamfest Grand Prize Winner, James R Pettitt, Jr., WA5CIA.

16215 Lutheran School Road  
Tomball, Texas 77377  
March 7, 2007

Brazos Valley Amateur  
Radio Club  
P.O. Box 2997  
Sugar Land, Texas 77487-2997

To Whom It May Concern:

My wife and I wish to extend our thanks to the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club for an enjoyable and successful Hamfest on March 3. This was our first Brazos Valley Hamfest in several years and we enjoyed the event and pleased with the equipment displayed.

I also wish to thank the Club for the ICOM IC-718 radio awarded to me as the grand prize. For several years, I have attended many Hamfests and this is my first time as a grand prize winner. I will enjoy this radio for many years and appreciate the Club's generosity.

We look forward to attending next year's Hamfest. Thank you, again.

Sincerely,

James R. Pettitt, Jr.  
WA5CIA

## 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:

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

Recording Secretary:

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

One Year Board Member:

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

Two Year Board Member:

Bill Stone, WS5H  
[dragwtow@wt.net](mailto:dragwtow@wt.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.

#### 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

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## UPCOMING FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

### April – Dxpeditions around the world

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## Upcoming Hamfests

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

**April 14, 2007**

**HAM EXPO, Bell County Expo Center in Belton, Texas**

<http://www.beltonhamfest.org>

Talk-in Freq: 146.82- (PL 123.0)

**June 8 – 9, 2007**

**HamCom 2007**

West Gulf Division Convention

Plano, TX, The Plano Centre, [2000 East Spring Creek Parkway](http://www.hamcom.org)

<http://hamcom.org>

Talk-In: 147.18 + (PL107.2)

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## BVARC EATING SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFASTS:

Otto's Bar-B-Que, 7:30 am, Fountains Shopping Center, SW Freeway.  
New York Coffee Shop, 7:30a.m., 9720 Hillcroft, in Houston.

### THIRD FRIDAY DINNERS: -

COME ONE COME ALL!! TO,  
The Hickory Barn Barbecue 281-530-9382  
11534 Wilcrest Dr.

Houston 77099

7:30 pm FRIDAY APRIL 20TH. EATING TOOLS ARE SUPPLIED..  
73, CLAUDE..

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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](mailto:k5izo@yahoo.com)  
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 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](mailto:w5hff@yahoo.com) or see the BVARC website: [www.bvarc.org](http://www.bvarc.org)

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**VOLUME 31, ISSUE 4**

**April 2007**

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

**FIRST CLASS POSTAGE**

**BVARC Monthly Meeting – Thursday, April 12**

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