



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

OCTOBER 2007

VOLUME 31 | ISSUE 10

BVARC OCTOBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7:30 PM, Thursday, October 11, 2007.

October's general meeting will be presented by KTRK, Channel 13.

How does the picture get from the field to your television? Channel 13 will be bringing out an ENG (electronic news gathering) truck to show everyone how the station gets the reporter's picture from the field to your television set. Whether by satellite or local microwave, these trucks are a huge package of electronic equipment.

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING REPORT



The featured speaker for the evening was BVARC member Rick Hiller, W5RH. As are all talks by Rick, it was very interesting and very informative. The topic was "Fun With Transmission Lines."

The BVARC Reflector

Submitted by Cam, K5CAM

BVARC members are encouraged to join the BVARC listserv. Members can post information concerning swap or trade, ham news, club news, comments or more. By sending an email to the listserv, copies of the email are "reflected" to all subscribers of the listserv. The listserv is provided by the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club (clarc.org).

The URL to join the listserv is http://mail.clarc.org/mailman/listinfo/bvarc_clarc.org. (Also available on the BVARC web site under *About BVARC*.)

Trivia:

Who remembers what happened 50 years ago, on October 4, 1957? Clue: AMSAT people will know.

Who remembers what that "year" 1957/58 was?

See answers on Page 7.

President's Corner

-The end of the year is just around the corner and there are still a lot to do this year for the club. The club will have a DX presentation for October (more information elsewhere in the newsletter), November will be election month along with the annual chili supper and December will be our regular "Home Brew" night. And in 2008 there will be the annual Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club banquet in January and Discovering Amateur Radio in February. The Greater Houston Hamfest will be on March 1st in 2008 and it will also be the South Texas Section Convention. The guest speaker that has been scheduled will be Coy Day, N5OK, the ARRL West Gulf Division Director.

For the ARRL members in the club, don't forget that elections are coming up over the next few weeks. Both Coy and David Woolweaver, Vice Director are running for reelection and need your votes. Both of them have done an excellent job of keeping amateur radio viable and useful as a hobby as well as emergency communications system. And no matter on who you feel is right for the job, please do not forget to vote.

Coming up on October 20th and 21st is the Lyondell Bike around the Bay. This is new bike ride that will have about 500 riders and will raise funds for the Galveston Bay Preservation Society. About 25 amateur radio operators are needed to work this event which is a great training ground for the BP 150 in April. If you are interested in working the event or would like more information, please contact me at 713-771-4625.

Just a quick reminder for everyone, the club has secured meeting dates for the general meeting for all of 2008 except February. As always, the general meeting will be held on the second Thursday of each month at the Sugar Land Community Center. Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club has again been classified as part of the city of Sugar Land office of Emergency Management. Without their help and effort, the club would loose the meeting location that we have held for fifteen years.

I am finally taking the plunge and putting up an HF antenna at home. I will be installing a G5RV and trying my luck on HF over the next few weeks. I hope I can remember how all that stuff works and can figure out just how to operate.

Talk to everyone soon on HF.

73

N5VCX

Upcoming Public Service Events

If you would like to put your radio and license to a good use, come out and volunteer your time to help with several non-profit events coming up over the next few weeks and months. If you need more information give me a call at 713-826-6917. I will be glad to tell you about the event and the requirements. After working public service events in the Houston area for the last 15 years, I can just about answer any questions you have (it may not be the right answer but it will be an answer)!

Wings Over Houston Airshow Saturday, October 6 and Sunday, October 7, 2007 Ellington Field, Houston

Sixty five operators are needed for this event. Send me your contact information and I will forward it to the event coordinators. Normally a 2 meter hand held radio will work for this event.

Lyondell Bike around the Bay Bike Ride Saturday, October 20th and Sunday, October 21st, 2007 8:00 am

This two day event needs 35 operators for all positions. The event starts in Anahauc and ends in Galveston for the first day. The second day is from Galveston back to Anahauc. There will be a communications meeting the week before the ride on October 13th at 10 am at 8111 North Stadium Drive. Overnight accommodations can be arranged. UHF mobile radios are needed for this event.

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

Monday Night NET Updates

Submitted by Cam, K5CAM

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:

4/16 17 - Bill, ws5h	6/11 - 33 - Bill, ws5h	8/6 - 26 - Cam, k5cam
4/23 - 26 - Pete, kd5qpx	6/18 - 24 - Sid, n5zkd	8/13 - 29 - Bill, ws5h
4/30 - 22 - Doug, kc5vyz	6/25 - 21 - Pete, kd5qpx	8/20 - 18 - Mike, n5vcx
5/7 - 24 - Cam, k5cam	7/2 - 18 - Cam, k5cam	8/27 - 27 - Pete, kd5qpx
5/14 - 33 - Bill, ws5h	7/9 - 24 - Bill, ws5h	9/3 - 17 - Cam, k5cam
5/21 - 14 - Sid, n5zkd	7/16 - 16 - Sid, n5zkd	9/10 - 30 - Bill, ws5h
5/28 - 16 - Pete, kd5qpx	7/23 - 24 - Pete, kd5qpx	9/17 - 17 - Sid, n5zkd
6/4 - 24 - Cam, k5cam	7/30 - 27 - Doug, kc5vyz	9/24 - 25 - Pete, kd5qpx

Special Notice:

The Board of Directors and then the General Membership of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club unanimously voted to endorse Coy Day, K5OK for Director of the West Gulf Division of the American Radio Relay League. Brazos Valley ARC also David Woolweaver, K5RAV, for West Gulf Vice Director of the ARRL. For a copy of the endorsement letter, please go to the BVARC website, www.bvarc.org

Silent Key:

John W. Dorsey

JOHN W. DORSEY, born August 8, 1929, of Bishop, TX and Sugar Land, TX, died September 4 after a long battle with cancer. A graduate of Alvin High School, Rice University, and Texas A&M University, John Bill brought joy to all who knew him. He is survived by his wife of 42 years Alva Sue Mannering Dorsey; son Byrom and wife Megan, daughter Dawn and husband Dennis, son John and wife Nell; and four grandchildren Margaret, Jakob, Lanie, and Thomas. A memorial service was held at the First Baptist Church in Bishop, TX on Sunday, September 9, and visitation was held at the Sugar Land First United Methodist Church on Tuesday, September 11. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

John Bill, W5LWR, was a long term member of BVARC and a regular attendee at the Saturday morning breakfasts.

HAM RADIO CLASS

Instruction for obtaining your Technician Level Ham Radio License from the FCC

Sponsored by:
The Houston ECHO Society
and

Greater Houston Area Chapter American Red Cross

October 2 - November 13 : Tuesday Evenings - 7:00pm-9:30pm

GHAC Main Chapter Building, 2700 S.W. Freeway - Houston, TX 77098

There will be 6 class sessions covering a different portion of the book each week. The 7th and last class session will be a ARRL VE Testing session to take the actual FCC test to obtain your license.

The class will be using the ARRL Ham Radio Licensing Manual as the textbook for the class. Discounted books will be available for purchase at the first class session or you may use one that you already have. The book retails for about \$24.95.

Loaner textbooks will be available for the duration of the class but must be returned to ECHO at the November 13 test session. A small donation to ECHO is suggested for use of the loaner book, but by no means is it required. The registration fee will be used to offset cost for copies and materials used in the class.

Registration - \$20 (does not include the book) : Textbook - \$20 (if you need to purchase a book)

Registration and Textbook fees will be collected at the first class session.

To register contact **Charlie Matthew - N0XFD** at n0xfd@yahoo.com or leave a message at 713-313-5319.

Preregistration is recommended to insure a spot is saved for you in the class. Walk-ins on the first day of class will be accepted provided there is available space in the class.

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BVARC Historical Vignettes – Pitcairn Island, A Unique Experience for Hams

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

Throughout the early years of BVARC, the club usually met at the Missouri City Fire Station on FM 1029 for the general membership meetings. The last meeting BVARC held at the Missouri City Fire Station was on September 12, 1991, and the program presented that evening may be the best program ever presented at a BVARC meeting. I remember it well because that was the year I was president of BVARC.

Early in my term as president, Bill Todd-Brown N5MPN resigned his position as the meeting program chairman due to health reasons, and I decided to appoint Steve Shirk N5SDL as the club's new program director. A number of old timers in the club criticized me for appointing Steve as program chairman because he was a new ham. My response was that over half of the BVARC members had been hams for less than five years, and a new ham would better understand what the kind of programs new hams were interested in. Steve did not let BVARC down.

The B-VARC Bulletin announced that the program for the September 1991 meeting was entitled "Pitcairn Island, A Unique Experience for Hams", and would be presented by Charlie Prochaska KG5KV. Charlie was active on the HF bands, and had a weekly schedule with Meralda Warren VR6MW on Pitcairn Island. For those of you who may not know, Pitcairn Island is famous as the hiding place of the twelve men led by Christian Fletcher who mutinied on the HMS Bounty in 1789. Pitcairn Island has no air field, and no ships call at the island on a regular schedule. When something is shipped to Pitcairn Island, the shipment is delivered by a cargo ship that is scheduled to pass through that general portion of the Pacific Ocean. The island has no harbor, so the ships anchor offshore and the islanders go out in small boats to meet the ship and pick up the cargo. Because Pitcairn Island is so isolated, the islanders are permitted to use amateur radio to order needed items. Charlie was one of the US hams arranging for purchase and shipment of supplies needed by the residents of Pitcairn Island.

The September meeting started in the normal manner with approximately 55 members gathering early to socialize, and at 7:30 PM the meeting was called to order. The usual items were covered followed by a standing roll call. Steve Shirk then introduced the program. Charlie had a large cardboard carton filled with items sent to him by the Pitcairn Islanders. As Charlie took out each item, he explained what it was and passed it around for audience to look at. When the carton was empty, Charlie showed a video tape of Pitcairn Island. This video described life on the island and showed some of the island residents including Meralda Warren VR6MW. When the lights came back on in the room, most of us assumed the program was over, but the best part was still coming.

Steve and Charlie had enlisted the help of Gerry Borg N5APW who at the time was vice president of BVARC and also president of MERA. Charlie turned on his HT and called Gerry. It was then that we learned that Charlie had set up a schedule with Meralda VR6MW, and that Gerry was at home on his HF rig talking to Meralda on 15 meters. Gerry then patched his HF rig into the MERA repeater and we could hear Meralda. She spoke for a few minutes and told us how excited she was because this was the first time she had ever had her voice transmitted over the 2 meter band. Charlie then asked if any one had a question to ask Meralda. It was at that point we learned that Meralda's connection to the MERA repeater allowed us to speak to her using an HT. For about the next twenty minutes, club members asked a variety of questions and Meralda answered them all. As twilight gave way to total darkness outside, the propagation path on 15 meters began to fade and Gerry had to sign with Meralda.

It had been an extremely exciting program, and the new hams in the room were absolutely awed by having the opportunity to use an HT to speak to someone on Pitcairn Island. In fact, some of the older hams were also a little awed. Charlie, Gerry and Steve had delivered the best program I have ever seen at an amateur radio club meeting. I don't believe that I have ever seen any program at an amateur radio club meeting that did so much to inspire and motivate new hams.

My comments about the Pitcairn Island program in the "Notes From the President..." column in the next newsletter were quite brief.

From the October 1991 newsletter (Vol. 14, No. 10) Vincent Orlando WA5ETS editor:

Notes From The President...

Our September meeting, the last one we currently plan to hold in the Missouri City Fire Station, turned out to be a real classic. That meeting will very likely become a club legend. The 55 persons who attended the meeting were treated to a real DX treat. It was possible to talk to Meralda Warren, VR6MW, on Pitcairn Island, with an HT from the meeting. A special word of thanks to KG5KV, N5APW and N5SDL who made it all possible.

A Geologist's View of Solar Cycles, Sunspots, and Propagation

by Allen Mattis N5AFV

Almost all amateur radio operators have some knowledge of solar cycles, sunspots, and radio wave propagation. We know that sunspots occur in an approximate 11-year cycle that goes from having very few or no sunspots to having many sunspots. When sunspots are present in larger numbers, the Sun's radiation is greater. This increase in solar radiation causes ionization in the Earth's ionosphere, and thus affects the propagation of radio waves. During times of increased sunspot activity, the Earth's ionosphere will refract radio waves, resulting in improved propagation on the high frequency bands. The first complete sunspot cycle observed by scientists began in 1755 and was termed Cycle 1. We are now in the late stages of Cycle 23.

As a geologist, I feel that it is somewhat presumptuous of mankind to believe that after observing 23 solar cycles we have a basic understanding of how solar cycles affect radio wave propagation. The Earth is 4.5 billion years old, and if our solar cycles have always had an approximate length of 11-years, there have been over 400 million solar cycles. Basing our entire understanding of the relationship between the solar cycles and radio wave propagation on data from 23 solar cycles is similar to saying that by examining a 30-foot length of Interstate 10 somewhere inside the 610 Loop in Houston we would know what the rest of Interstate 10 is like from Santa Monica, California to Jacksonville, Florida.

There is evidence that suggests the Sun does not always behave as it has during the last several hundred years. The Maunder Minimum, named after Walter Maunder, an English astronomer, occurred from 1645 to 1715. This 70-year period was characterized by the almost complete absence of sunspots. At that time the occurrence of solar cycles had not yet been recognized; however, Galileo observed sunspots using a telescope in 1610 and astronomers of that century continued to observe the sun and sunspots with telescopes. Even though radio had not been invented and radio wave propagation data are not available for the Maunder Minimum, there is evidence that solar radiation from sunspots was not causing ionization in the ionosphere. The increased solar radiation associated with sunspots causes an increase in aurora borealis, commonly known as northern lights. During the Maunder Minimum, there were no sightings of aurora borealis reported in London. However, in early 1716, historical records describe a marvelous display of aurora borealis in the London area. People reportedly stayed up all night to view the northern lights. This display of aurora borealis clearly indicated that the Maunder Minimum was over. Historical records also provide evidence of climatic effects during the Maunder Minimum. The period was marked by colder temperatures, and in northern Europe this event became known as the Little Ice Age.

By contrast, in today's world we hear much about global warming. Some claim that man has caused the Earth to warm by burning fossil fuel resulting in larger amounts of carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere. However, a number of recent papers by astronomers and astrophysicists indicate that warming is also occurring elsewhere in the solar system.

The Mars Global Surveyor and Odyssey missions indicate that for the past three years the southern polar ice cap on Mars has been decreasing in size. Data from distant Pluto indicate that surface temperatures have risen a degree or two above absolute zero. A new "red spot" believed to be a hurricane-like storm on Jupiter formed between 1998 and 2000 and scientists believe that a temperature increase of 10 degrees Fahrenheit may be responsible. Hubble telescope researchers at the University of Wisconsin report that a similar spot has developed in the atmosphere of Uranus and they believe that solar influence caused warming of the northern hemisphere. Photometric measurement studies of Neptune over the past 50 years indicate changes on the planet that exceed normal seasonal variations and these changes are believed to have been caused by solar driven temperature changes. Data from the Hubble telescope's fine guidance sensors indicate that the surface of Triton, the largest of Neptune's eight moons, has warmed 3 degrees Fahrenheit. Studies of Saturn's largest moon, Titan, indicate that the surface temperature is warming there also.

It is difficult to predict radio wave propagation for the next solar cycle, but no matter what Mother Nature has in store for us, radio amateurs will continue to operate on the high frequency bands just as they have done for the last one hundred years. If the warming data throughout the solar system indicate an actual increase in solar radiation, we could see a significant improvement in high frequency propagation in the next few years. Remember the well known Chinese curse - May you live in interesting times.

RESULTS OF THE AUGUST BVARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION

As this issue goes to press, this information is not available. Please see next month's issue for August and September results.

THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

September 2007 check-ins

3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00pm, John Whiteman, K5LKJ, Net Coordinator

09/05/07-N5CPA, K5CEK, KE5SR, K5SEE, KE5NDB, KC5HFM, K5LJ, WA5CYI, WS5H, W5RH, AF5T, K5JWM, K5HFY. (13 CHECK-INS)

09/12/07-K5LKJ, W5UHZ, KC5HFF, N5CPA, WB5PNL, W5RH, K5LJ, KD5SIT, KE5NDB, WS5H, AA5OA, WA5CYI, NM5K, AF5T (14 CHECK-INS)

09/19/07-K5LKJ, K5CEK, K5HFY, KE5SR, WA5FMK, W5UHZ, WA5CYI, N5CPA, K5JWM, KE5NDB, KC5JAR, K5LBU, W5RH, WS5H, KJ5SS, AF5T (16 CHECK-INS)

Regards.

John C. Whiteman

CLASSIFIED ADS:

Though generally not publicized, BVARC members in good standing may submit reasonable ads for publishing in the monthly newsletter. Discretion for inclusion is left to the editor.

"Cushcraft R7000 vertical HF Antenna

Freq. coverage: 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30 & 40

PEP Power rating: 1500 Watts : Height: 24 ft.

Includes 20ft 3" aluminum mast. \$285.00 or best offer

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Answers to Trivia on Page 1:

1. Mankind entered the space age with the launch of Sputnik 1, Oct. 4, 1957. How many of you saw it?



2. 1957 /58 was the International Geophysical Year – an 18 month “year.”



DXing on 160 Meters?
Part II
Larry Jacobson -- K5LJ
(with assistance from Rick Hiller – W5RH)

Part I appeared in the September BVARC newsletter

Well, what does it take to get on 160 and work DX? The 3 most important things are location, location, and location. A low angle of radiation is also mandatory, as with most DX work. We here on the Gulf Coast have one advantage in that the ground conductivity here is as high as any place in the country.

Antennas for 160M

A peculiar antenna situation occurs on the low bands starting at 40 meters and heading toward 160 meters. Most hams treat the transmitting antenna and the receiving antenna, as separate entities. Yes, some use the same antenna for both sides, but most use totally separate, and different, antennas for transmit and receive. This is done in order to milk the most out of the antenna system in trying to work around high noise levels and hard to achieve low angles of radiation. With expedient use of all of your hard learned antenna knowledge you will be able to create a system that gets out well and receives well too.

Transmit Antennas

Most amateurs on 160 will have a vertical transmitting antenna. When the ground conductivity is high, verticals will work quite well even with a poor or none-existent radial system. The overriding driver for using a vertical transmitting antenna is the simple fact that the majority of us can not get a horizontal dipole antenna up high to obtain good, low angle radiation, which is required for DXing. A half wave on 160M is ~265 feet long and, if decent low angle radiation is desired, it must be up about ½ wavelength above ground – 265 feet! Thus, a 160M dipole is out of the question for most of us. A full size vertical at 135 feet tall is slightly more feasible, but is still out of the question for many. Shorten verticals, however, become very practical and with careful design can be reasonably efficient.

Receive Antennas

Bear in mind, the often overlooked fact, that an antenna's "signal capture area" is based on wavelength – [the equation is -- Capture Area = (Receive gain) x (wavelength²) / 4 Π (meters²)] Longer wavelength antennas have (all other things being equal) a larger capture area and, therefore, a greater received signal amplitude. A 160M antenna will have 4 times the capture area of a similarly scaled 80M antenna. And this is true regardless of the overall physical length of the antenna. Even a short 160M antenna can have superior signal capturing properties compared to a full sized 80M antenna. For receiving, the vertical's well known proclivity as a noisy antenna often has amateurs seeking other antenna forms which are quieter. Beverages and EWE's (traveling wave antennas) are popular, but take up lots of real estate. Small loops, ie. 'pennants' and 'flags', perform well in this capacity. There is a great deal of opportunity for experimentation in the area of antennas. Improving the signal-to-noise on 160M is a constant on-going effort, through better receiving antennas and receiver filtering schemes.

Make a 160 Meter plan

So, make a 160 Meter plan and put it into action now. The weather here is starting to cool off, making it more pleasant to get outside and do some antenna work. There are 160 meter contacts to be made the year round, but winter time is the quieter period and also the period of longer nighttime hours. December thru March is the 160 Meter operational 'prime time' and is also the time of year that the 160 meter contests occur.

References

At the end of this article we have provided "References for 160 Operation, Radios and Antenna Systems". These are books, articles and information from QST, World Radio and popular web sites. They are easily accessible online or through the authors. There are other references from the pages of the now defunct 'Ham Radio' magazine or '73' magazine (available on CD, DVD or in "Best of" compendiums). Plus, just perform a Google search on "160 Meters" and you will come up with pages and pages of references to 160 meter operation, receiving, antennas, etc.

One “on the air” propagation reference is WWVH (and WWV). If you can hear WWVH (the lady’s voice) at 2.5 MHz, then 160 is sure to be open toward the Pacific. WWV in Colorado is a good indicator of state side propagation.

Summary

160 meters is a very unique band for the ham op. The wavelengths are long, long, long and the receiving and matching components are large, so equipment can be easily homebrewed. And just think, 2 times a day, propagation peaks for about an hour each time, so you can easily plan your operating day. Of course, it doesn’t hurt if you have insomnia either. Anytime during the hours of darkness is good for 160, and other low band, operation.

So get busy. Put up a shortened vertical, an inverted L or even a low dipole...but make the effort to get on the air on 160 this winter season. Don’t forget to join us on the Wednesday evening BVARC Rag Chew Net (7PM on 3910 KHz) and report of your activities, we would love to hear about them. Once you get a taste of the low bands you will be back again and again, thinking, improving and, most importantly, having fun working contacts on the band.

GL es 73. K5LJ and W5RH

We hope you enjoyed this two part article on 160 meters. If you should have any further questions, you can contact us directly --

Larry, K5LJ -- k5lj@earthlink.net or Rick, W5RH at rhiller@sdicgm.com

References for 160 Operation, Radios and Antenna Systems

Low Band DXing Book – ON4UN – ARRL Publishing

On the web information of various subjects:

General 160 info -- <http://www.w8ji.com/>

EI7BA's Amateur Radio Pages http://www.iol.ie/~bravo/low_band_antennae.htm

160 Antenna info -- <http://www.w8ji.com/antennas.htm>

Receiving Wire Antennas -- <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/recwire.html>

“Is This EWE for you?” by Floyd Koontz, WA2WVL -- QST February 1995

Also at <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/recwire.html>

EWE Antenna - <http://www.nrcdxas.org/articles/ewe.html>

Your First 160 Meter Antenna <http://www.cebik.com/wire/160new.html>

Working top band in Hawaii <http://www.chem.hawaii.edu/uham/160strat.html>

W1BB article http://www.w8ji.com/160_history.htm -- then

<http://www.w8ji.com/160%20History/hist160dx.pdf>

Propagation prediction table <http://www.spacew.com/www/160pred.html>

References from W5RH – rhiller@sdicgm.com

The following references are not available on line, but if you want a copy just send me an e-mail and I’ll send a PDF out to you.

World Radio Magazine

A Sloper for 160 Meters – W4JTL – November 2001

Why low gain antennas work so well at lower HF frequencies – W4HET – Sept 1999

QST Magazine

Feeding an 80 Meter Delta Loop at 160 Meters – K6XK – Page 37 April 1990

Loading Coils for 160 Meter Antennas – W7XC – April 1990

160 Meters: A Tribute – N4LBJ – Aug. 1989

The 160 Meter Antenna Dilemma – W1FB – Nov 1990

One Ham’s Introduction to Top Band – AA6OZ – Nov. 1991

---The End---

Minutes of September 6th, 2007 Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club:

Mike Hardwick called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:45 PM on September 6th, 2007 at Denny's Restaurant, 8199 SW Freeway; Houston, TX. Attending were; Mike Hardwick, N5VCX (Pres.); Sid Sherwood, N5ZXD (Treas./Cor. Sec.); Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.); Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ (At-Large Dir.); Bill Stone, WS5H (At-Large Dir.); Norma Stone, KE5NDN; Rick Hiller, W5RH (At-Large Dir.); Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; Claude Sessions, K5HFY; Charles Frost, K5LBU; John Chauvin, K5IZO; Randy Pollard, AK5G; Gerry Muller, AF4TS

- 1) Minutes for August 2007 meeting were approved as they appear in the for September 2007 newsletter.
- 2) Treasurer's Report was presented to and approved by the Board.
- 3) Old Business, Hamfest 2008:
 - a) Website revised for 2008 event.
 - b) Invitation letters to vendors have been sent.
 - c) Deposit to the fair ground association has been made and reservation secured.
 - d) First formal organizational meeting to be held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at Denny's Restaurant, 8199 SW Freeway; Houston, TX.
- 4) Schedule:
 - a) September: Rick Hiller, Fun with Transmission Lines. (August board minutes reported VU7 Dxpedition as September program. This was the board decision at the time. Later, the board realized that the meeting decision was in conflict with its' own previously made arrangements.)
 - b) October: Madison Jones (W5MJ), VU7 DXpedition
 - c) November: Chili Supper & Elections (Allen Brier coordinator)
The following persons have agreed to stand for election for office.
 - i) 2 Year Director: Arnold Knoch
 - ii) Recording Secretary: Peter Sauermilch
 - iii) President: OPEN
 - d) December: Home Brew Night
 - e) January: Banquet
 - f) February: Discovering Amateur Radio (New Ham Night)
- 5) New business:
 - a) License Classes: Rick Hiller has offered to co-instruct classes as Ross Lawler is unavailable.
 - b) New Programs: Anyone having ideas for new programs is asked to contact any of the board members.
 - c) A request for club endorsement was received by ARRL Director, Coy Day (N5OK) West Gulf Division and ARRL Vice Director, Dr. David Woolweaver (K5RAV) West Gulf Division both who are up for re-election. The board decided to make this a matter for discussion at the general meeting.
- 6) Other Business, Public Service Events:
 - a) Tour de Pink: Sunday 09/09/2007
 - b) Bike Around the Bay: Saturday & Sunday, 10/20/2007 & 10/21/2007
 - c) Novemberfest: Saturday, 11/10/2007
- 7) Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Submitted by Recording Secretary Peter Sauermilch-KD5QPX



Can you identify this item? Answer is at the bottom of page 11.

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
dragntow@wt.net

At Large Board Member

Rick Hiller, W5RH
rhiller@sdicgm.com

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.

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

October – KTRK, Channel 13.

November - Annual Chili Supper & Annual Elections

December - Homebrew night

January - Annual banquet

February - Discovering Amateur Radio Night (& New Ham Night)

BVARC EATING SCHEDULE

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFASTS:

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

THIRD FRIDAY DINNER: October 19, 2007, 7:30p.m.

TIO PEPE'S SPANISH RESTAURANT, 5213 Cedar in Bellaire

Upcoming Hamfests

(within 200 miles of Houston)

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

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

HamEXPO

6 Oct 2007

Temple Amateur Radio Club
Bell County Expo Center, [301 W Loop 121](#), Belton, TX

Talk-In: 146.820 (PL 123.0)

<http://www.beltonhamexpo.org>

Brenham Swapmeet

27 Oct 2007

Brenham Amateur Radio Club
Washington County Fairgrounds, [1303 East Blue Bell Road](#), Brenham, TX

Talk-In: 147.260 +600 (PL 103.5)

<http://www.alpha1.net/~w5aum>

Ninth Annual Coastal Bend Hamfest

10 Nov 2007

South Texas Amateur Radio Club
Hilltop Community Center, [11423 Leopard Street](#), Corpus Christi, TX

Talk-In: 146.82 -600 (PL 107.2)

<http://www.n5crp.org>

BVARC Greater Houston Hamfest

1 March 2008

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds, Hwy 36, Rosenberg, TX

Talk-In: 146.94, -600, (PL 167.9)

www.houstonhamfest.org

Photo on page 10 – National 1-10 Shortwave receiver,
circa 1930.



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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

BVARC monthly general membership meeting, Thursday, October 11, 2007 - KTRK, Channel 13, with electronic news gathering truck. How does the picture get from the field to your television?

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