



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

DECEMBER 2007

VOLUME 31 | ISSUE 12

BVARC DECEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7:30 PM, Thursday, December 13, 2007.

A Dual Program

Michael Kalenberg, Ft. Bend Emergency Management, will give a presentation on CERT (Civil Emergency Response Training).

Homebrew Night. Bring any project you did in recent years. Or simply attend to see other's projects.

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING REPORT

When it comes to food, most BVARC members really enjoy themselves. The Chili Supper, held as the November general membership meeting, was no exception. There were about 10 different pots of chili to enjoy as well as other goodies.

The annual elections were also held that evening. Charles "Frosty" Frost, K5LBU, will be the new BVARC President. Mike Hardwick, N5VCX (outgoing President) will therefore assume the role of a board member for 1 year as the Past President. Arnold Knoche, K5ADA, was elected to one of the At-Large Board member seats, and Pete Sauermilch, KD5QPX, was re-elected as the Recording Secretary.



Not much conversation – "lotts" eating



Arnold, Frosty & Pete

President's Corner

The month of December will be a very busy month. Christmas preparations are on everyone's mind as well as special events such as the 30K Warm-up Run on the 9th to the high speed CW contest on the 16th to the ARRL SSB sweepstakes contest on the 19th. The end of the year is full of events and happenings and it takes a computer, an iPhone and a white board to keep up with everything. The end of the year also brings many changes as well. The end of 2007 will also bring a very big change to Brazos Valley Amateur radio club – the end of my term as club President.

It has been a long six years as club president and but I have really enjoyed it. When I became President in 2002, the club was facing many problems. The club was facing everything from continued drop in membership (The membership dropped to about 85 members in 2003, but is over 120 members today. This is a long way from nearly 300 in 1992) to a treasury that was heading to, after annual club expenses, basically zero dollars (the club still had one CD available and it looked like it would have to be cashed in at one point). Today the club has a sizeable checking account as well as a growing CD (Without either one of these, the Greater Houston Hamfest could not grow). These problems were caused by simply a drop in interest in the amateur radio hobby as well as the normal attrition of members. However with a lot of hard work from other club officers and club members, the club recovered. I want to thank everyone that has helped over the last six years by volunteering for the Board of Directors. Without their help, running the club would have been impossible. There are just too many people to name but I also want to thank everyone else that has helped over the years with the club and the various functions. With your help, the impossible task was possible.

Beginning in 2008, Charles "Frosty" Frost, K5LBU will be the new president for the club. Frosty has been a familiar face around the club for many years and he helped coordinate the first road trip for the club's general meeting in 2002. If you do not know Frosty, he is very active in HF as well as DXpeditions. Make sure that you introduce yourself to Frosty at the next General meeting or at the BVARC Banquet and make him feel welcomed as the new club president.

I do not want to forget the rest of the Board of Directors for 2008: Vice President Allen Brier, N5XZ; Recording Secretary Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Peter is returning for another two year term); Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer Sid Sherwood, N5ZKD; and At-Large Director Bill Stone, WS5H. New to the board in 2008 is Arnold Knoche, K5ADA. He is stepping up and will be on the board as an At-Large Director for the next two years. Stepping down from the Board as At-Large Directors are Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ and Rick Hiller, W5RH. Both Robert and Rick have worked very hard for the club as well as the amateur radio community and I know they will continue supporting the club as well as the hobby. Again I want to thank everyone for their hard work and their continued support and efforts on the Board of Directors as well as their energy for the club and hobby.

I could go on-and-on thanking people and take up half the newsletter but that would make John, K5IZO, just go crazier. I have really enjoyed my time as club president and will still continue to help the club anyway I can.

73,
N5VCX

BVARC GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST

March 1, 2008

The second largest hamfest in Texas.

Have you already volunteered to participate?

Contact John at k5izo@yahoo.com or Mike at n5vcx@worldnet.att.net

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

For any of these events, contact Mike Hardwick, 713-826-6917

20th Annual Sugar Land Lakes of Williams Ranch 30K Sugar Land, Texas Sunday, December 09, 2007 7:00 AM

<http://www.sfinishlinesports.com/home.html>

Twenty operators are needed for this event in Sugar Land, Texas. Operators will meet at Denny's on Hwy 6 at 5:00 am for maps, tee shirts and event information. Event and talk-in will be on the 145.470, minus offset, tone 123.0.

Houston Marathon 6:45 am Sunday, January 13, 2008, Downtown Houston

125 operators are needed for this event. Send me your information if you are interested in working this event and I will forward it to Carl Hacker.

BP MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Tour Saturday and Sunday, April 12 and 13, 2008

Needing 150 of the best amateur radio operators from Texas to provide communications for the premier fund raising event for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Give me a call or sign up at www.houstonhams.org if you can work hard and provide the best communications for a great event.

CLUB AWARDS GET YOUR VOTE IN NOW!

Don't forget about the club awards that are handed out at the annual banquet in January. The awards are:

The Order of the Key

The Loop and Zepp Award

The Dr. Bill Award

You must turn your vote in for the club member that you feel deserves the award as soon as possible. Normally it must be in by the December general meeting but you can turn your vote in by December 15th this year. Please turn in your vote, in writing (e-mail accepted), to the club's corresponding secretary, Sid Sherwood, N5ZKD by the 15th. If you are not able to give it to Sid, give it to anyone on the Board of Directors. We must have your vote by the 15th so there is time to make the awards before the banquet.

If you would like to find out about the awards and the past winners, please go to the BVARC website and look under "About BVARC, Award Info".

Don't Forget to Vote!

**RESULTS OF THE November 13th
BVARC 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, November 13, 2007 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

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

Two examination elements were administered during the evening to two applicants. Two new Technician class licenses were attained, with the total number of elements passed being 2. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

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

John S. Smelley - {KD5RLY} - Technician
Thad C. Smelley - (KD5RLZ) - 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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http://www.n0hr.com/Ham_Radio_Toolbar.htm

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Regardless of how you celebrate the holidays,
BVARC wishes you, your family and your friends a joyous season.

The TAK-Tenna – A cursory Review and Prior Art Discovery

By Rick Hiller – W5RH

My good Ham friend, Rod -- K5BGB, is always looking for the next best thing. He lives in an antenna restricted community and has neighbors that are in very close proximity; so, as a 40/30/20 meter CW OP, he is continually searching for that Holy Grail of stealth sky wires. He keeps me on my toes. After he finds something new or interesting, the e-mail squawks, "Have a look at this....what do you think?" Of course, liking antenna as I do, I quickly change gears into the antenna analysis mode. Sometimes it takes a few days but, I continue to dig until I am satisfied that I have found all there is to know about the referenced antenna system. Then, I will report back to Rod, hopefully with a response commensurate with the intensity of his goading. So began a similar quest for the knowledge below.

Note: Besides the fact that I like to mess with antennas, another reason for my interest in this particularly smaller antenna is that I am always on the lookout for an 80 meter antenna that is reduced size and easy to build. Once found, you really won't have any excuse for not joining us on the BVARC Rag Chew net on Wednesday evening at 7PM on 3910 KHz. Hi

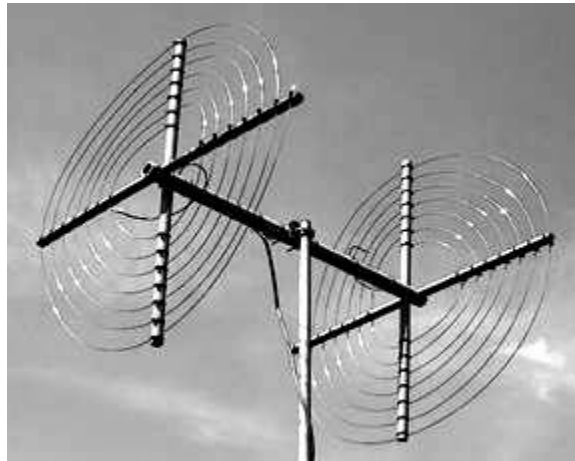


Figure 1 – The 20 Meter TAK-Tenna (Courtesy Ham Universe) 11-07

TAK-Tenna -- What is it?

There is a new antenna being hawked on the web. It's called the TAK-Tenna (see Figure 1) and is built by Steve Tetorka, WA2TAK. Check it out at: www.tak-tenna.com

In short, it is a reduced size HF dipole antenna that uses opposing, spiraled loading coils at each end. TAK has models for 6 thru 40 meters. After a look at the web site, it sounds interesting with its small size; 50 ohm feed Z, and relatively wide band SWR curve. Plus, from a home-brewing stand-point, it looks darn easy to replicate, although his kits include all parts, so an easy final assembly is the only thing required. He even offers some special 'form keeping' stiff wire, so it might be well worth the price to get the kit. Seems like the antenna could be beneficial to those with limited real estate holdings or that have eagle eyed Home Owners Association committees.

So what did I find?

As I am interested in the how's and why's of an antenna's design, I started looking for more info. I dug into my 5 drawer file cabinet of antenna information, as I recalled something of this design style from back in the 1970's. I was right, Feb 1970 73 Magazine published an applicable article about spiral end loading. I then researched all that is available on the web, starting with the TAK-Tenna web site, then read any referenced reviews that were performed and then looked at any references within those reviews, etc. Have a look at:

TAK-Tenna web site -- <http://www.tak-tenna.com/>

Ham Universe review -- <http://www.hamuniverse.com/taktennareview.html>

E-Ham product reviews -- <http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/6775>

Modeling the beast

Ok, so the web search gave me a good basis of information and opinion on the "commercial version". I still wanted to know if what was claimed was true and I found a further reference to the TAK-Tenna on the QRP-L reflector. Michael, K7DD, had

actually modeled the antenna. Due to its configuration, getting the model into the EZNEC analysis format was difficult enough, but Michael had done it. I wrote to him and he graciously obliged with some 'dot EZ' files of the TAK-tenna in various formats and frequencies. Michael went to substantial trouble to calculate and enter all of the wire segment coordinates into the EZNEC wires menu. A few of the models actually have a spiral "circular" coil, versus an orthogonal spiral (see Fig. 2), which is the easier to model. My hat is off to Michael, no matter what, as that is a monumental amount of work.

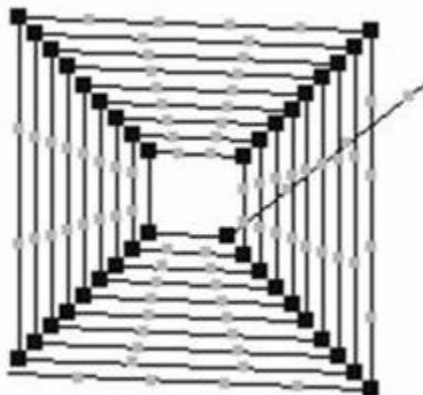


Figure 2 – One end of K7DD's orthogonal "spiral" load coil model (EZNEC)

Phenomena Found

I ran the models through their paces and found pretty much what was stated on the TAK-Tenna web site. I did, however, find one model very interesting, due to an inherent characteristic. The 20/40 meter dipole had 2 resonance points, one at the frequency of the horizontal wire only (14 MHz) and the other at 7MHz, that included the spiral end loading. Patterns for both frequencies were dipole-like, with the main lobe of radiation varying with the TAK-Tennas height above ground, of course. I recalled something about this dual resonance within World Radio magazine a few years back and, yep, there it was – the "Petlowany Dipole". Bill, K6NO, built a 20 meter dipole and put spiral loading on the ends and measured the exact same dual resonance results, as I had seen in K7DD model.

Find the Petlowany Dipole article at:

<http://www.wr6wr.com/newSite/articles/features/olderfeatures/antennaswithtwist.html>

I remember reading this article when it first came out. Back then, I dismissed it as bunk. But, since then, I have learned that, within the world of RF and antennas, that until I disprove it for myself, I should never blow off any theory or claim. RF is, at times, magic, or close to it.

Anyway, from the EZNEC model, the "Source Data", shown below, shows the Feed Point Impedance. Between the two cases, all I did was change the base frequency of analysis (no rescaling). 7.04 MHz has a feed Z of $41.77 + j1.7$ and, therefore, a 50 ohm SWR of 1.2. On 20 meters, 14.1 MHz, the Z is $61.02 - j3.5$, making the 50 ohm SWR 1.233. Both ratios are well within the 'full power out' range of a rig with solid state finals. So, we are good to go there.

----- SOURCE DATA -----

Frequency = 7.04 MHz

Source 1 Voltage = 41.81 V. at 2.42 deg.
 Current = 1 A. at 0.0 deg.
 Impedance = $41.77 + j1.765$ ohms
 Power = 41.77 watts
 SWR (50 ohm system) = 1.202 (43 ohm system) = 1.052

----- SOURCE DATA -----

Frequency = 14.1 MHz

Source 1 Voltage = 61.12 V. at -3.33 deg.
 Current = 1 A. at 0.0 deg.
 Impedance = 61.02 - J 3.554 ohms
 Power = 61.02 watts
 SWR (50 ohm system) = 1.233 (43 ohm system) = 1.429

Patents and Prior Art

Further to the TAK-Tenna; as mentioned before, 73 Magazine had an article in the February 1970 issue called “An Eighteen Inch Dipole On Fifteen Meters” by Allan R. Brown, K9DGH. Brown referenced his 1969 patent # 3432858 within the article. The patent outlines the how’s and why’s for the spiral end loading. Brown’s 73 article is not available on-line, but the patent is easily obtained. Perform a search on <http://www.google.com/patents> for “3432858” and review the html or download the PDF. Great thing about patents is that the patent has references to additional patents, and prior art, that relate to the one you are reading.

Summary

Unfortunately, we’ll have to wait for a real time operational review / analysis to appear some where, however, this is pretty cool stuff. It has efficient end loading that provides a dual resonance on a fundamental and the second harmonic. I have not yet extended my modeling past the point above, but, at some point, I will want to see just what could be built for 80 meters. If you take this 80 meter antenna task on, please let me know.

I’d also like to build the discussed 20/40 dipole and check it out fully; now that I have a trusty MFJ-269 Antenna Analyzer in the shack. It will be interesting to see just how close the empirical is to the virtual. If you build one, let me know what you found when you build it and how it performs.

I’ll keep you posted on anything that I build. I hope that you found the TAK-Tenna and the “information discovery process” interesting and educational in your quest for further antenna knowledge. All in the fun of “pushing ether”. Enjoy.

Rick Hiller – W5RH rhiller@sdicgm.com



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Doug Woodruff, KC5VYZ – Silent Key

Joseph Douglas “Doug” Woodruff Jr. 51, KC5VYZ, passed away during surgery at 11:13 am on Wednesday, December 5, 2007. Doug has been a member of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio club for many years and the Monday night VHF NET manager for the last 6 years. Doug was very active in his church as well as amateur radio. His wife Sherry said that he felt amateur radio was his “second ministry” and that he always enjoyed the hobby. Doug worked many events as an amateur radio operator and has been a familiar face on the MS150 Bike Ride for over ten years. Doug’s friendly and warm personality will be dearly missed from the amateur radio community. Services were held on December 7, 2007 at Simonton Community Church in Simonton , Texas .

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:

6/18 - 24 - Sid, n5zkd	8/13 - 29 - Bill, ws5h	10/8 - 25 - Bill, ws5h
6/25 - 21 - Pete, kd5qpx	8/20 - 18 - Mike, n5vcx	10/15 - 28 - Bill, ws5h
7/2 - 18 - Cam, k5cam	8/27 - 27 - Pete, kd5qpx	10/22 - 26 - Pete, kd5qpx
7/9 - 24 - Bill, ws5h	9/3 - 17 - Cam, k5cam	10/29 - 23 - Doug, kc5vyz
7/16 - 16 - Sid, n5zkd	9/10 - 30 - Bill, ws5h	11/5 - 23 - Cam, k5cam
7/23 - 24 - Pete, kd5qpx	9/17 - 17 - Sid, n5zkd	11/12 - 26 - Bill, wsfh
7/30 - 27 - Doug, kc5vyz	9/24 - 25 - Pete, kd5qpx	11/19 - 20 - Sid, n5zkd
8/6 - 26 - Cam, k5cam	10/1 - 23 - Cam, k5cam	11/26 - 16 - Pete, kd5qpx

Skyscrapers and Satellites – A Poor Mix

by Allen Mattis N5AFV

During the last few years I have been fortunate in that my employer has allowed me to slip away from my desk occasionally to operate an OSCAR satellite pass. My Icom W32A HT and a telescoping AL800 antenna performed quite well from the mall parking lot across the street from my office in Memorial City. This situation has changed now that my employer has moved their offices to downtown Houston in what the downtown Chamber of Commerce refers as the Skyline District.

For those who do not know, Houston's skyline has been ranked as the fourth-most impressive in the United States by height; it is the third-tallest skyline in the United States, and one of the top 10 in the world. I work on the 25th floor of a 35-floor building, but many other buildings in downtown Houston are taller. For example, Houston's tallest skyscraper is the 75-floor, 1,002-foot-tall JP Morgan Chase Tower. It is the tallest structure in Texas, the 10th-tallest building in the United States, and the 30th-tallest skyscraper in the world. The 71-floor, 992-foot Wells Fargo Bank Plaza is the second-tallest building in Houston, the 13th-tallest in the United States and the 36th tallest in the world.

What all of this means is that when I step outside the building where I work it is like being in a concrete canyon. Unless a satellite has an elevation of 45 degrees or greater there is not much chance of having line-of-sight to the bird. Another problem is that almost all of the tall buildings have radio antennas on the roofs, and the intermod on the 70 cm band in downtown Houston is tremendous. My first week downtown I tried working five satellite passes and was only able to hear the satellite on one pass that had a maximum elevation of 69 degrees. I copied the bird for less than 30 seconds but did manage to make a quick contact with Rick, N5ZNL, in Jackson, MS before intermod covered the satellite's signal. It doesn't appear that it is feasible to effectively work satellites from street level in the Skyline District of downtown Houston with an HT and AL800 antenna.

After giving the problem some thought, I came up with Plan B. I decided to try working a satellite pass from the top level of the 14-story parking garage where I park. Unfortunately, I found that the intermod was even more severe than at street level. In addition, buildings taller than the parking garage still blocked over 50% of the horizon. My Icom W32A HT and AL800 antenna couldn't handle the harsh RF environment.

I haven't totally given up on working satellites from downtown Houston, but my attempts to date have not been encouraging. My employer would still let me slip away to work an occasional satellite pass if I can come up with a Plan C that works.

ANNUAL BANQUET

Friday, January 11, 2008

Saltgrass Steak House – US 59, Southbound Access Road, South of Bissonnet

6PM – Drinks & Socializing

7PM – Dinner and Presentations

Mark your calendars. More details will be in the January issue

BVARC Historical Vignettes – BVARC Saturday Breakfast Surprise

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

The members of BVARC have enjoyed getting together for breakfast on Saturday mornings since the earliest days of club. Over the years, the club has held the breakfast at many different locations, with the 7-year run (1999-2006) at the Viking Den in Stafford probably being the longest stretch of time at any one venue.

There was a period of time when the club met at a couple of the Denny's Restaurant in Houston. The club newsletters did not always list the location of the Saturday morning breakfasts; however, the BVARC newsletters from April 1989 through June 1990 list the Saturday breakfast location as the Denny's Restaurant near Sharpstown Mall. The location of the Saturday morning breakfast does not appear again in any of the BVARC newsletters in my possession until the May/June 1995 issue, when the breakfasts were being held at the Kettle Restaurant on the northeast corner of Chimney Rock and Westpark. At some point in the early 1990's, the Denny's Restaurant near Sharpstown closed and the building was torn down. BVARC had to find another place for breakfast, and the club began to meet Saturday mornings at the Denny's Restaurant located at 8199 Southwest Freeway near Gessner, which is a very short distance from the KPRC Channel 2 television studios. It was at this Denny's Restaurant where one of the most eventful Saturday morning breakfasts in club history took place.

Just as happens today at the BVARC breakfasts, there was a usual group of club members who attended the breakfasts, and some of the members brought their spouses or significant others with them. Attendance at the time was usually 15 to 20 people, and the Denny's had a back room where we could sit together and not disturb other customers. The breakfast on August 14, 1993 started as if nothing out of the ordinary was going to happen. The first arrivals secured the back room for our use, and other BVARC members began to arrive.

Almost all the regular attendees had arrived and the table was nearly full. At that point, Larry Levy, WD5DRB, and his fiancée, Vicki, walked into the room, and someone made a comment about them probably being the last ones to arrive. Behind Vicki were her three children, and also a man who had been seen waiting out front in the restaurant. Larry announced to the group that they were getting married, and the man with them was introduced as a judge. The judge then took over and began to conduct a wedding service, and the club members present at the breakfast witnessed the wedding.

Probably the only one present besides the wedding party who knew in advance what was going to happen was Steve Gottlieb, WA5OEN. The rest of us sitting around the table were totally surprised. We had gone out that morning to have breakfast with our BVARC friends, and ended up witnessing a wedding. The August 14, 1993 BVARC Saturday morning breakfast was truly the most eventful Saturday morning breakfast in club history.

UPCOMING FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

December - Homebrew night & CERT

January - Annual banquet

February – TBD

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

April - A selection of short technical discussions and functional applications on antennas

THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

October & November 2007 check-ins

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

10/24/07—K5LKJ (Net Control), K5CEK, KE5SR, KS5SS, N5CPA, WB5PNL, WS5H, KE5NDB, K5JWM, W5UHZ, W5SIT, WA5CYI, W5RH, AF5T, NG1H, KZ5I (16 CHECK-INS)

10/31/07- N5CPA (Net Control), KJ5SS, K5CEK, KE5SR (by proxy), K5LBU, KE5NDB, W5RH, K5LJ, WS5H, WA5FMK, K5ADA; K5UAO Alexandria, LA; WB5VWB; K5GKM Bryan, TX; KE5HSW Lake Charles, LA; K5LKJ (tel) Stroud, OK; NM5K, (17 check-ins).

11/07/07—K5LKJ (Net Control), K5CEK, KE5SR, W5UHZ, KJ5SS, W5TEM, N5CPA, KC5JAR, KZ5I, KE5NDB, K5LJ, N5AVN (Vidalia, LA), K5LBU, WD5SYS (Austin, TX), K5HFI, N5VCI, WA5CYI. (17 CHECK-INS)

11/14/07—K5LKJ (Net Control), KJ5SS, KE5SR, KC5JAR, WA5CYI, WA5FMK, KE5CDE, W5UHZ, WB5VWB, KE5CFF, N5CPA, K5LBU, WS5H, K5LJ, KE4LUY (Sebastian, FL), KE5NDB, K5IZO.
(17 CHECK-INS)

11/21/07—K5LKJ (Net Control), KJ5SS, KE5NDB, KE5SR, WS5H.
(Thanksgiving Eve & Storm Front)
(5 CHECK-INS)

Regards, John C. Whiteman

2007 Club Officers:

President:

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
n5vcx@worldnet.att.net

Vice President:

Allen Brier, N5XZ
n5xz@arri.net

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:

Sid Sherwood, N5ZKD
n5zkd@arri.net

Recording Secretary:

Pete Sauermilch
kd5qpx@arri.net

Two 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
jwm@hal-pc.org

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

BVARC EATING SCHEDULE

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFASTS:

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

THIRD THURSDAY DINNER: **Thursday**, December 20, 2007, 7:30p.m.,

LAFAYETTE CAJUN SEAFOOD, 10829 W. Bellfort at Wilcrest.
Note the day change to a Thursday this month.

Upcoming Hamfests

(within 200 miles of Houston)

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

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

Austin Radio RoundUp

7-8 Dec 2007

Austin Amateur Radio Club
Sons of Hermann Mixed Lodge #120
[9611 Decker Lake Road](#), Austin, TX

Talk-In: 146.94(-) no PL

<http://www.AustinHams.org>

San Antonio 2008 Amateur Radio Fiesta

12 Jan 2008

San Antonio Radio Club
Schertz Knights of Columbus Hall
[509 Schertz Parkway](#), Schertz, TX

Talk-In: 145.390 (-) (PL 100.0)

<http://w5sc.org/swapfest.htm>

Annual Swapfest

16 Feb 2008

Bastrop County Amateur Radio Club
Riverbend Park Pavillion
[Highway 71](#), Smithville, TX

Talk-In: 145.350 (PL 114.8) or 443.750 (PL 114.8)

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



Monthly Publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.
Serving Amateur Radio for Southwest Houston and Fort Bend County
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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
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

**BVARC monthly general membership meeting, Thursday, December 13, 2007 -
Homebrew Night
Featured Presentation - CERT**

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