



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

MARCH 2008

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 3

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&

Texas VHF-FM Society Gen. Winter Meeting

*Featured Speaker - Coy Day, N5OK, ARRL West Gulf Division Director*

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- Live HF station • Satellite demo • DXCC card checking
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*See the detailed flyer inside this issue!*

**BVARC MARCH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
DISCOVERING AMATEUR RADIO NIGHT  
(& NEW HAM NIGHT)**

7:30 PM, Thursday, March 13, 2008

Sugar Land Community Center, 226 Matlage Way, Sugar Land, Texas

Are you, or an acquaintance, interested in ham radio? This is the meeting to make!  
There will be a featured presentation and a live amateur radio station.

## FEBRUARY MEETING – WELL ATTENDED – ESPECIALLY FOR VALENTINE’S DAY

Michael Kalenberg, Ft. Bend Emergency Management, presented a very informative program on CERT (Civil Emergency Response Training). BVARC also says “thank you” to JACK VAN DEMARK, WN5A, for making arrangements for us to use the office building auditorium.



**Michael Kalenberg, featured presenter.**



**Some of the attendees.**

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### President’s Message

Deadline time is here and I am sitting at school trying to put the words of wisdom down on paper for my fellow BVARCers.

First of all, I want to thank all the brave hearts that came to the meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>. That took some real strong men to do so. I am sure some might have paid dearly for the privilege to be there. I sure hope that everything is fine on the home front.

The program, presented by Michael Kalenberg on CERT, was great and had lots of good information that applies to all of us. Thank you Mike for your work.

Well, only a few more days to the big show, the BVARC “Greater Houston Hamfest” on March 1. There is still a great need for members to help out in several places even if for only an hour or two. Pete Sauermilch needs 3 or 4 to help get people directed into the correct places out in the lot for tailgaters and other folks. This is for the first several hours at the start and then for a time during the mid morning. Please talk to Pete and give him a hand.

Also Sid Sherwood needs 3 or 4 to help at the main door to do crowd control. This is at the main door. Then we need some folks to help cover the exit doors so no one opens any of them.

So please give some deep thought about helping out even for an hour in the morning and once more after lunch.

Is there anyone who would do a write-up on working the VP6DX DXpedition? Or better yet something about how many in BVARC worked them and how many bands and modes. Who is the BVARC DX HOG.

Contest coming up: I thought that the hamfest weekend was the WPX contest but it is the ARRL SSB DX contest so BVARC will have an HF station doing the contest at the hamfest. I plan on having a trailer with a 50-60 foot tower and a beam on top so we can work the world.

Next stop is Field Day in June so everyone let Mr. Hardwick hear from you about what band you want to work and start getting your team together. Let’s go win for BVARC this year!

73,  
Frosty,  
K5LBU/C91CF/A25CF,etc

## Skyscrapers and Satellites Revisited

by Allen Mattis N5AFV

Several months ago I related how difficult it was to work satellites from downtown Houston using an HT and telescoping AL800 antenna. Operating satellites with an HT from the fourth-most impressive skyscraper district in the United States is very challenging. 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 the tremendous intermod on 70cm due to all of the radio antennas located on top of the tall buildings.

I faced this problem last October when employer moved their offices from Memorial City to downtown Houston in what the downtown Chamber of Commerce refers to as the Skyline District. My Icom W32A HT and a telescoping AL800 antenna performed quite well from the parking lot of Memorial City Mall across the street from my office in Memorial City. 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. This wonderful attitude on the part of my employer still exists, but I had to find a way to work the satellites under the harsh conditions of the Skyline District.

Several months ago I related my Plan A that failed – Working the satellites from street level with an HT and AL800 telescoping antenna. In one week 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. 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. My Icom W32A HT and AL800 antenna couldn't handle the harsh RF environment. In addition, buildings taller than the parking garage still blocked over 50% of the horizon.

It took me a while to come up with Plan C because I had two issues to deal with. The first issue was that I needed to have better line of sight to the satellites, so I looked for a place on the edge of the Skyline District with a lower horizon. I found a place with surface parking lots that I could walk to in 6 minutes using the downtown tunnel system. This location gives me acceptable line of sight to satellites for east passes. I still need to find a place where I can work west passes.

The second issue was to find a way to deal with the tremendous level of intermod. After giving considerable thought to the problem, I concluded that I might be hearing the intermod because my AL800 telescoping antenna has too much gain, so I decided to substitute an MFJ-1717 extended rubber duck antenna that has less gain. I had used this antenna as a backup on cruises where I had operated on satellites, and Andy MacAllister, W5ACM, has successfully used a similar Diamond antenna on some of his cruises.

I arrived at the parking lot location a few minutes before a satellite pass and turned on my HT with the MFJ-1717 attached. I could hear some intermod, but not nearly as much as I did with the AL800 antenna. I had a few minutes before the satellite pass, so I put the short rubber duck that came with the W32A HT on and was surprised to hear even more intermod than I did with AL800. I switched back to the MFJ-1717 and listened for the satellite.

As the satellite cleared the buildings to the north I could hear the downlink. The downlink signal is not as strong with the MFJ-1717 antenna downtown as it is at Memorial City using the AL800, but I am able to make contacts. I average three contacts a pass downtown using the MFJ-1717 while I averaged five contacts a pass at Memorial City with the AL800.

Ham radio operators almost always want to upgrade to higher gain antennas because in most cases that will improve the ability to make contacts. A lower gain antenna, however, proved to be what was needed for operating from Houston's Skyline District with its RF saturated environment.

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## 2008 BP MS150 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, medical problems and SAG control at break points on the route. – This can be just a few hours to a full day commitment. It is dependent on the location. **MURS radio required.**
- **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.

Amateur radio volunteers need a minimum of a dual band VHF/UHF radio 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 provided for volunteers 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](http://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 you would like to volunteer or find out more information, please go to [www.houstonhams.org](http://www.houstonhams.org) or call Mike Hardwick at 713-771-4625.

**THE BVARC Rag Chew Net  
January & February 2008 check-ins**

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

01/02/08- K5LKJ (NCS), KJ5SS, K5LOT, KE5SR, W5RH, N8NOV, N5CPA, KC5JAR, KH9AE, WA5CYI, K5LJ, KE5NDB, KD5ADA, K5LBU, WS5H, W5RJA (Schulenburg), AF5T, KE5DJA (Leesville, LA), K5HFY, WB5PNL.  
\*\*W5UHZ (Beaumont), KA5MEI, K5LOT, K5HFY, WA5CYI, WA5FMK, KZ5I. (20 check-ins)

01/09/08- K5LKJ (NCS), KJ5SS, W5RH, WS5H, W5RJA (Schulenburg), KE5SR, K5CEK, K5LOT, N5CPA, K5JWM, K5LBU, KE5NDB, WA5CYI, KE5DJA (Leesville, LA), KZ5I, KD4RHO (Rockwall) K95THJ, K5HFY, W1DVM (Hawthorne, FL), KC5JAR. (20 check-ins)

01/16/08- K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, KE5SR, K5LOT, KJ5SS, KZ5I, KE5CDE, WS5H, KE5NDB, N5CPA, K5LBU, W5RH, W5RJA (Schulenburg), KE5CFF, KE5DJA (Leesville, LA), KB5ION, K5LJ, W5UHZ, WB5SYS, WA5VRB, AA5OA, KA5MEI, WA5CYI, KC5JAR. (24 check-ins)

01/23/08- K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, KJ5SS, N5CPA, AA5OA, KZ5I, WA5FMK, KB5ION, KE5VCX, KE4VXC (Asheville, NC), KE5NDB, N5TGM N5TGM, WS5H, K5LBU, K5LOT, W5RH, AF5T. (16 check-ins)

01/30/08- K5LKJ (NCS), K5LBU, WS5H, W0PIE (Parson, KS), KE5NDB, K5IZO, K5LJ, N5CPA, AF5T, K5CEK, W5RH, KZ5I, N5TGM (Dickson, TN), AA5OA, W5RJA (Schulenburg), N5TG (Mansfield), N7INO (Bastrop, LA) (18 check-ins)

02/06/08- K5LKJ (NCS), K5LBU, K5LJ, K5CEK, KE5NDB, KJ5SS, W5UHZ, KE5CDE, K5HFY, WS5H, AF5T, W5RJA (Schulenburg), KC5JAR, KB5ION, KZ5I, AA5OA, WA5CYI, WB5PNL. (19 check-ins)

02/13/08- K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, WA5FMK, N5UOA, KJ5SS, K5LBU, KE5NDB, N5CPA, K5LJ, AA5OA, KB5ION, KZ5I, N5TGM (Dickson, TN), W5RH, WS5H, K5NRM, W5RJA (Schulenburg), W1DVM (Hawthorne, FL) (18 check-ins)

02/20/08- N5CPA (NCS), K5CEK, KJ5SS, K5LBU, K5IZO, W5RJA, WS5H, K5JWM, AA5OA, WA5FMK, WB5PNL, KA5MEI, K5LOT, KE5NDB, KE5SR, N5HCS, KC5JAR, KZ5I, K5HFY. (19 check-ins)

Thanks.

Regards.

K5LKJ

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**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:

12/3 - 26 - Cam, k5cam	12/31 - 19 - Mike, n5vcx	1/28 - 20 - Pete, kd5qpx
12/10 - 27 - Bill, ws5h	1/7/08 - 20 - Cam, k5cam	2/4 - 23 - Cam, k5cam
12/17 - Marni, ke5msd	1/14/08 - 29 - Bill, ws5h	2/11 - 22 - Bill, ws5h
12/24 - no net	1/21/08 - 22 - Marni, ke5msd	2/18 - Marni, ke5msd

## **BVARC Historical Vignettes – BVARC High Frequency (HF) Nets**

**Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian**

One of the very first things BVARC did after it was founded in 1977 was to start a Monday evening Emergency Net on two meters. This net was the forerunner of today's BVARC Public Service Net. BVARC has also had nets on the high frequency (HF) bands for many years. The early newsletters of the club do not mention when the first BVARC HF net was started, but the B-VARC Bulletin from January 1982 lists a BVARC HF phone net being held on Wednesday evenings. This net later became the BVARC Rag Chew Net.

In the early days of the club, the Wednesday evening net met on the ten meter band on 28.735 MHz at 8 PM, and was established as a phone net for those club members who did have two meter capability. The use of the two meter band and FM repeaters was not as widespread in 1982 as it is today and many amateur radio operators only had HF equipment. In February 1982 the net frequency was changed to 28.700 MHz. In May 1982 the net time was changed to 9 PM, and two months later it was changed again to 8:30 PM. The BVARC HF net settled in to that frequency and time slot for a couple of years.

In January 1985 the BVARC HF net underwent a major change. The name of net officially became the BVARC Rag Chew Net, and the net was moved to 3.962 MHz on the 75 meter band. The net still met on Wednesday evenings at 8:30 PM. Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG, became the primary net control station for the HF net. Previously the net had a rotating schedule of net control operators, but that system had not worked out very well. In October 1985 Stu moved the net to 3.957 MHz, but by the end of the year the frequency was moved again to 3.960 MHz plus or minus 3 KHz.

The time and frequency of the BVARC HF net again settled down and remained unchanged for four years. In December 1989 the net time was changed to 8 PM. That change lasted for six years, but in May 1995 the Rag Chew Net began meeting at 7:30 PM and was still held on 3.960 MHz. In July 2003 the net changed both time and frequency, moving to 3.910 MHz and meeting at 7 PM Wednesday evenings where the net currently meets.

A number of times over the years BVARC has also had CW nets. The information in the club newsletters does not give us a complete story of these nets, but we do know that some of the CW nets were regular nets with stations checking in, and others were for practice copying CW to help those club members preparing to upgrade their licenses.

The first mention of a BVARC CW net in a club newsletter was in January 1982. According to that newsletter, two CW nets were being held at 9 PM on Tuesday evenings. A fast speed (15–18 wpm) net was held on 28.135 MHz, and a slow speed (7½ -10 wpm) net was held at the same time on 28.035 MHz. This of course required two net control stations. These nets are not mentioned in any of the other club newsletters in my possession and it appears that the nets died in just a few weeks.

A more successful CW net was held by BVARC from August 1984 through April 1987. Vance Peterson, N5FLQ, was the net control station. When the net first began it met on 15 meters on 21.165 MHz at 8 PM Wednesday evenings. In January 1985 the CW Slow Speed Net moved to 3.740 MHz on 80 meters at 7:45 PM Wednesday evenings. After a successful 2 ½ year run, the last mention of the net was in the April 1987 B-VARC Bulletin.

To help members prepare to upgrade their licenses, BVARC also held nets to provide practice copying CW. Portions of text from QST magazine were sent at both fast and slow speeds over the MERA repeater on 145.470 MHz. This allowed club members who had 2 meter equipment to practice copying CW. These nets were held Friday evenings at 8 PM from April through September 1988, and at 8:30 PM during May 1995. Even though these nets were not on HF frequencies, they were held to facilitate those club members upgrading to gain HF operating privileges.

## Minutes of February 7, 2008 Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club:

Editor's Note: We wish to thank Cam, K5CAM, for taking these notes in Pete's absence.

Present: Frosty (K5LBU), Mike (N5VCX), Arnold (K5ADA), Rick (W5RH), Bill (WS5H), Norma (KE5NDN), John (K5IZO), Dave Barber (KE5NDB), Dave Beers(AF5T), Sid (N5ZKD), Ross (W5HFF), Cam (K5CAM)

Call to order by Frosty at 1920.

Treasurer's report by Sid: Financials for current month and year. Present to Randy for audit. Report accepted – Bill moved, Mike seconded.

Old business:

Hamfest: (Mike reporting) George has ICOM 7000 and Kenwood in stock. Arrow antenna will have to be ordered. The prices are not fixed yet. George may donate a handheld. Possible that George won't be able to have a booth at the Hamfest because Luis has a weekend job and leaves too few people to run the store and Hamfest both. Accommodations for the Hamfest will be resolved Monday. Also, checking on room dividers.

(John reporting) Task groups have been meeting – signs and facilities. 175 emails were sent to prospective displayers. (Arnold) 25 tables sold. Bill passed out a form for the BVARC consignment table.

Bill discussed the current situation with Isaacson's digital repeater offer from Exxon. Need to find out if Fort Bend wants it and, if not, do we want to set it up. This may be an annual gift. The motivation may be that Isaacson is an ARES member and they wish to cover more area with digi-peaters.

Meetings: Bill discussed plans for the March meeting – new hams night. Needs more hams to be involved in the program.

Rick is working on the April meeting. Trying to get PSK-31 set up. May be able to get some ISS pictures from a NASA friend.

New Business:

Field Day. Mike seems to have volunteered to be in charge and is the Field Day leader. Discussion about location. Pretty certain to be the Fire Field again. Discussion about the class 4A – 6A. Question about getting enough operators to justify 5A or 6A. Frosty hopes to get some TXDX people. Also, may get a crank-up tower trailer.

Bill. Claude wants to start a BVARC auction series. Board will discuss when Hamfest over and Field Day organized because too much going on at present.

Adjourned 1958.

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George DiLetto KD0RW

## Minutes of January 3, 2008 Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club:

Editor's Note: Due to space limitations in the February newsletter, these minutes were withheld until this issue. We apologize to Pete who did submit them in a timely manner.

Mike Hardwick called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:52 PM on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008; at Otto's Barbecue, 11222 Fountain Lake Dr, Stafford, TX. Attending were: Charles Frost, K5LBU; (Pres.); Arnold Knoche, K5ADA (At-Large Dir.); Sid Sherwood, N5ZXD (Treas./Cor. Sec.); Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.); Bill Stone, WS5H (At-Large Dir.); Rick Hiller, W5RH (At-Large Dir.); Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; John Chauvin, K5IZO; Pete Norris, KJ5SS; Mike Hardwick, N5VCX; Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ; and David Barber, KE5NDB.

- 1) Minutes for the December 2007 meeting were approved as they appear in the January 2008 newsletter.
- 2) Treasurer's Report, 2007 transaction summary, was presented to and approved by the Board.
- 3) Old Business:
  - a) Hamfest update:
    - i) Next organizational meeting, Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>
    - ii) Food Vendor will be Otto's
    - iii) Flyer
      - (1) New version completed
      - (2) Distribution
        - (a) Nothing at HARS
        - (b) Poorly displayed at EPO
    - iv) Vendors, contact is Pete Norris. He has telephoned several who have been nonresponsive.
    - v) Board acknowledged the need to renew web domain names without needing a vote because of cost.
  - b) General Membership Meetings:
    - i) January 11<sup>th</sup>, Banquet
      - (1) Salt grass SW Freeway
      - (2) Awards would be presented, but names were not given at board meeting.
      - (3) Hardwick announced that there would be a special surprise.
      - (4) Changing of the guard would officially take place at that meeting.
    - ii) February 14<sup>th</sup>:
      - (1) Location at old UNICOL building, 14141 SW Freeway. The location is confirmed.
      - (2) Presentation, Michael Kalenberg, Ft Bend Co OEM is not confirmed.
    - iii) March 13<sup>th</sup>:  
Discovering Amateur Radio: Bill Stone as coordinator is confirmed.
    - iv) April 10<sup>th</sup>:  
Mini-Antenna programs,: Rick Hiller coordinator is confirmed.
    - v) Use of club calls:  
Bill Stone and David Barber resubmitted their requests and asked the board to wave the 15 day use limit to 1 year. Board approved.
- 4) New business:
  - a) Breakfast @ Stafford. Member requested moving to another location. Hardwick requested that any action to that end be after the hamfest because Otto's is the food vendor.
  - b) Items left to Frost from Hardwick:
    - i) Club Calendar
    - ii) Schedule of Club Events
    - iii) By-Law Updates
    - iv) Signature changes for bank account
    - v) Financials to Pollard for audit
- 5) Public Service Events:
  - a) Houston Marathon, January 13<sup>th</sup>
  - b) Frost Bike 50, January 27<sup>th</sup>
  - c) Wild West End Ride, February 17<sup>th</sup>
  - d) Bluebonnet Express, March 30<sup>th</sup>
  - e) BP MS150, April 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>
- 6) Meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX





7<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club**  
**GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST**



*Hosting the*  
**ARRL South Texas Section Convention**  
 &  
**Texas VHF-FM Society Gen. Winter Meeting**  
 Saturday, March 1, 2008 - 8 am - 2 pm  
 Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Rosenberg, Texas

*Featured Speaker - Coy Day, N5OK, ARRL West Gulf Division Director*

- **Over 18,000 sq. feet of indoor exhibit space!**
- **Plenty Free Parking!**
- **Friday evening set-up.**
- **New, larger areas for meetings, programs and testing!**

**Programs:**

- Training seminars
- Information lectures
- APRS & Satellite operation demonstrations
- DXCC checking
- Youth Forum

**Raffle:**

**GRAND PRIZE:**  
**ICOM IC-7000**  
**2nd Prize - Kenwood TH-D7A w/ duplexer and antenna.**



Grand Prize & Bonus Prize - drawing at 1 pm  
 – Need not be present to win grand prize  
 Other prizes awarded every 10 – 15 minutes!

**Displays & Information:**

- Amateur and Public Safety Emergency Communications Vehicles
- Texas VHF-FM Society
- ARRL • ARES • AMSAT
- Live HF Station

**Camping and Lodging:**

Overnight camping sites with full hook-ups.  
 Special local motel rates.

**License Testing:**

Registration starts at 8 am;  
 Testing starts at 9 am;  
 Photo ID & copy of license needed

**Hot Food Available:**

Food catering provided by  
 OTTO's Bar-B-Que.

- Breakfast Tacos and Danish.
- On-going snacks & drinks.
- Bottomless cups of coffee
- Bar-B-Que Sandwiches.

**Directions & Talk-In:**

NO Houston Traffic.  
 Approx. 33 mi SW of downtown Houston.  
 From Houston, take US 59 south to Rosenberg (approximately 17 miles past Beltway 8) to Hwy 36. Go South approx. 1 mi to Fairgrounds (on your right).  
 Talk-in - 146.940 minus offset, 167.9 tone or 145.470 minus offset, 123.0 tone – Club Call KK5W

**Miscellaneous:**

Admission: \$5 per person - Includes 1 raffle ticket!  
 Admission included with commercial table purchase  
 Children Under 14 Free!

Tables: Club members - 1 table free with prepaid admission / \$10 at the door - admission extra  
Non members - \$7 table each prepaid purchase / \$10 at the door - admission extra  
Commercial - \$10 each prepaid purchase / \$15 at the door - includes one admission  
 Commercial prepaid registration includes additional incentives!  
 Electricity available - \$5 - Set-up available: Friday 4-10 PM, Saturday 7-8 AM

Tailgate: \$5 per vehicle - includes one admission to indoor exhibit area  
 Raffle: Tickets - one for \$1 or six for \$5

Hamfest Location – 4200 Highway 36, Rosenberg, TX 77471 - Lat 29 31 07 Long 95 48 49  
 Contact: Mike Hardwick, N5VCX; [n5vcx@att.net](mailto:n5vcx@att.net) (713) 826-6917

## PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

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

### **Magnolia Miles, 8 am March 8, 2008**

Bike ride in the Magnolia area starting at 8:00 am.

Needing 15 operators to provide communications for break points, medical and SAG vehicles for event support.

Talk-in and event will be on the 147.020 repeater (plus offset, no tone).

### **Bluebonnet Express, 8 am March 30, 2008**

Bike ride in the Prairie View A&M University/Hwy 290 area starting at 8:00 am.

Needing 15 operators to provide communications for break points, medical and SAG vehicles for event support.

Operators will meet at Denny's on FM1960 just north of Hwy 290 at 4:30 am for maps, tee shirts and final event information.

Talk-in and event will be on the 444.075 repeater (plus offset, 103.5 tone).

### **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](http://www.houstonhams.org) if you can work hard and provide the best communications for a great event.

Mike Hardwick  
BP MS150 Bike Tour  
Communications Coordinator  
713-826-6917

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#### RESULTS OF THE February 12th B-VARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION by: John Moore, KK5NU

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

#### MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Jeff Fussell, KD5VGE  
Larry Jacobson, K5LJ  
John Moore, KK5NU  
George Ontko, KM5VP

Three examination elements were administered during the evening to two applicants. Two new Technician licenses were attained, with the total number of elements passed being 2. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 6.6%.

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

Scott J. Cala	- {KE7RUD}	- Technician
Prasnanna Rao	- (KE5SYU)	- 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 .....

## 2008 Club Officers:

President:

Charles "Frosty" Frost, K5LBU  
[frosty1@pdq.net](mailto:frosty1@pdq.net)

Vice President:

Rick Hiller  
[rhiller@sdicgm.com](mailto:rhiller@sdicgm.com)

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:

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

Recording Secretary:

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

Board Member:

Arnold Knoche  
[jakadaok@aol.com](mailto:jakadaok@aol.com)

Board Member:

Bill Stone, W5SH  
[dragntow@wt.net](mailto:dragntow@wt.net)

At Large Board Member

(Past President):  
Mike Hardwick, N5VCX  
[n5vcx@worldnet.att.net](mailto:n5vcx@worldnet.att.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  
[jwm@hal-pc.org](mailto: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 FRIDAY DINNER:

March 21, 7:30p.m.,  
PANDA GARDEN CHINESE RESTAURANT, 1043 Eldridge Road at  
Jesse Pirtle Blvd. in Sugar Land (1 mile +/- N. of US90A).

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## UPCOMING FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

March - Discovering Amateur Radio Night (& New Ham Night)  
April - A selection of short technical discussions and functional  
applications on antennas

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## Upcoming Hamfests

(within 200 miles of Houston)

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

### **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](http://www.houstonhamfest.org)

### **HamEXPO**

19 Apr 2008  
Temple Amateur Radio Club  
Bell County Expo Center  
[301 West Loop 121](http://www.bellcountyexpo.com), Belton, TX  
**Talk-In:** 146.820 (PL 123.0)  
<http://www.beltonhamexpo.org>

### **Ham-Com 2008**

13-14 Jun 2008  
Ham-Com; Plano & McKinney Amateur Radio Clubs  
Plano Centre  
[2000 East Spring Creek Parkway](http://www.hamcom.org/), Plano, TX  
**Talk-In:** 147.18 (PL 107.2)  
<http://www.hamcom.org/>

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### **NEWSLETTER SURVEY UPDATE – TO BE UPLOADED IN MARCH**

An internet input form to reach those that were not around to fill out the hard copy surveys is currently being prepared. The paper surveys that have already been submitted, are on hand and will be included in the data analysis. We hope to have this survey on-line shortly after we recover from the hamfest.



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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Claude Sessions, K5HFY, [k5hfy@arri.net](mailto:k5hfy@arri.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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**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 1, 2008  
BVARC General Membership Meeting, Discovering Amateur Radio Night  
– Thursday, March 13, 2008.**

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