



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

APRIL 2008

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 4

BVARC APRIL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

IRLP (Internet Radio Linking Project)

7:30 PM, Thursday, April 10, 2008

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

The featured presentation will be given by Steve Agee, N5ZUA. The subject will be the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP). The previously scheduled program, The 5 Tennas (5 mini antenna presentations) had to be postponed to May due to a medical condition of the coordinator (see related message in this issue). There will also be mention of such activities as the MS-150 (April 12 & 13) and Field Day (fourth full weekend in June). Always check the BVARC website early in the week, join the BVARC Reflector or participate in one of the nets (listed at the rear of this issue) for any last minute updates.

There will be 5 keys for sale at the meeting. These belonged to George Maczali, K5STR. See the listing in this issue.

BVARC GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST

Was held on Saturday, March 1.

The annual BVARC Greater Houston Hamfest was held on Saturday, March 1, at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds. The Hamfest had about 25% more tables than last year and had about 30% additional air conditioned space. This year there was a separate VE building for license testing, and an additional building for speakers. The main bourse area was used for table sales only. There were more vendors than ever as well as more tables than ever.

A "debriefing" meeting was held in mid-March to discuss the positives, the problems and other aspects and to set forth a path forward for 2009. The Hamfest is held "Always the First Saturday in March" which in 2009 will be March 7. It will once again be held at the Fairgrounds. A kickoff meeting will be held after Field Day, in mid-July. If you wish to participate, look for the announcement and attend that meeting.



See more photos inside this issue.

MARCH MEETING Welcome to Amateur Radio Night

The March General Membership Meeting had a great presentation in the absence of Rick W5RH(VP/the antenna man) who was in the hospital after heart surgery, and John KD5YOU (DIGI MODE /packet client) having an unexpected job related injury. LETS KEEP THEM IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY. Four potential new hams were guests. Dan, one of our new hams who is fast becoming very knowledgeable, made contacts on the VHF 220 station that was set up with a piece of coax cut back 12 1/2 inches like a dipole that was able to hit the repeater. To those who could not make the meeting, a special thanks for standing by to make contacts with the club call KK5W on 224.700 and HF 28.680 (the 10 meter sstv band plan for U.S./Canada). With only the 50 ft. of coax, we set up the VHF station and managed the HF demonstration with 2 HF Digi capable stations working each other from dummy load to dummy load.(Big DX FROM ONE END OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER TO THE OTHER). We managed to set up a 2 meter packet station for demo but the magnet mount antenna on top of the power supply did not quite make it out into the air waves to hit KD5YOU to demo the email without internet but did make a good exhibit as to the setup and software even if the radio was a 1978 Yaesu cpu 2500r. CAN YOU TELL WE WERE HAVING FUN? If anyone had a question on what is an elmer and what does an elmer do -- well, Ross, W5HFF, not only answered that but had us all back in class with study guide in hand during his segment of the presentation. TNX Ross, as it brought back the memories of the classes you hosted that helped me attain my EXTRA class ticket. The exhibits were of older gear and may have looked more like a swap fest but it was mostly Norma KE5NDN and my gear and it works, maybe proving that it does not have to cost an arm and a leg to get on the air. The event goes on and on and maybe if you were not there plan to come next year. I wish to thank David KE5NDB, Dave AF5T, Randy AA5OA for coming early and helping to set up the event, just to name a few. YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE and thanks for your participation especially those who brought the guests interested in Ham radio.

CU soon DE WS5H Bill



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George DiLetto KD0RW

President's Message

Greetings to all the members of BVARC.

Here it is April and time for the news letter already. First, I would like to report that our fearless VP is on his way to being better than new, having been there and gone through the same thing almost 8 years ago.

The featured presentation at the general membership meeting will be given by Steve Agee, N5ZUA. The subject will be the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP). I think Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ, for bringing this up and for Steve stepping in at the last minute. The club and board needs, and appreciates, your input regarding meeting programs. For any suggestions, contact our VP, Rick Hiller, W5RH.

I would like to thank Sam Wilson, N5CPA, for all the years that he has devoted to getting a place for members to come together on Friday night to have a meal and fellowship with one another. Also, the same thanks to Claude, K5HFY, for doing it when Sam was not able to do it.

Now, on to Breakfast. OK, jump on me for saying that the meals are not a BVARC club activity. I feel that these should be open to any ham, member or not, and we should present it that way. Yes, it is announced over the air on the nets and in the newsletter. We should reach out to all hams and invite them to come and enjoy the fellowship with other hams.

Last night on the 3910 Rag-Chew net, the folks that had a word to say about the location of breakfast, stated that it would be at I-HOP. So, I guess, until otherwise noted, we will continue to get together each Saturday morning between 7 and 7:30 AM to eat and swap tales.

No one has come forward, who is willing to write about contests that are coming up or tell us how they did in working some new DX, so, I will provide some appropriate info to Mr. John to include in the newsletter.

Coming up is the MS-150 Bike Ride and please get with Mike and let him hear from you on helping out.

CU at the meeting Thursday

Frosty
K5LBU/C91CF

DX INFORMATION

DX worked in he last several weeks:

Worked 7P8FC on 40 ssb they had a great signal.
Also last night worked 4O3A on 40 ssb and he had a great signal.
Of course worked the guys on TX5C and VP6DX on many bands.

So send me who you have worked and we will put it in the news letter.

Contest coming up:

Apr. 12-13 Japan Int'l CW DX contest
Apr. 19 Holyland DX contest
Apr. 19-20 Kids Roundup
Apr. 26-27 Nebraska QSO party (for John)
May 24-25 CQ WW WPX CW contest

There are others and I will find some of the web sites that list the contest.

Frosty
K5LBU/C91CF

THE BVARC Rag Chew Net
Late February through Mid March 2008 check-ins
3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00pm, John Whiteman, K5LKJ, Net Coordinator

02/27/08- K5LKJ (NCS), K5SIT, WA5FMK, K5CEK, K5LJ, W5UHZ (Beaumont), WB5PNL, W5RJA (Schulenburg), KZ5I, AA5OA, KB5ION, K5JWM, KE5NDB, K5LBU, WS5H, K5LOT, W5RH, AI4SS (Johns Island, SC), N5CPA, AF5T. (20 check-ins)

03/05/08- K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, KE5SR, KJ5SS, K5HFI, KZ5I, N5CPA, WA5CYI, W5UHZ (Beaumont), KE5NDB, AA5OA, K5LJ, WS5H, KB5ION, W5RJA (Schulenburg), WA5FMK, W5RH, AF5T, WB5PNL. (19 check-ins)

03/12/08- K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, N5CPA, KJ5SS, KE5SR, K5LJ, WA5FMK, K5LBU, KE5NDB, KA5MEI, KB5ION, KZ5I, AA5OA, K5JWM, K5CAM, W5RFT, WS5H. (17 check-ins)

03/19/08- K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, WA5FMK, KE5NDB, W5UHZ (Beaumont), N5CPA, KB5ION, K5HFI, KB5VTB, WS5H, W5RH, K5CAM, AF5T, KD5YOU. (14 check-ins)

Thanks.

Regards.

John C. Whiteman

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:

1/7/08 - 20 - Cam, k5cam	2/4 - 23 - Cam, k5cam	3/3 - 27 - Cam, k5cam
1/14/08 - 29 - Bill, ws5h	2/11 - 22 - Bill, ws5h	3/10 - 22 - Sid, n5zkd
1/21/08 - 22 - Marni, ke5msd	2/18 - 18 - Marni, ke5msd	3/17 - 14 - Bill, ws5h
1/28 - 20 - Pete, kd5qpx	2/25 - 28 - Pete, kd5qpx	3/24 - 19 - Pete, kd5qpx

SK Keys for sale

The following keys will be for sale at the April General Membership Meeting. These keys belonged to George Maczali, K5STR. They are being sold on consignment by his wife, Dorothy Maczali, KB5EEJ. BVARC will receive 10% of the proceeds. Originally there were 8 keys but 3 were sold at the BVARC Greater Houston Hamfest.

Dow Key Bug
Straight Key on a Box
Brach J-7-A
Vibroplex gold top bug
G.E. J-5

More BVARC Greater Houston Hamfest Photos





BVARC Minutes March 2008

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

Call to order by Frosty.

Treasurer's report by Sid: Financials for current month. Greater Houston HamFest: 584 attendees not including preregistrants. Report accepted – Arnold moved, Mike seconded.

Old business:

- A donation from Exxon has been received to be used for digital repeaters. A committee of Mike, Bill, and Pete was formed to oversee the project.
- Future meetings (from Rick):
March – Bill is about ready for Ham Night. Would like 2 and 220 mobile rigs, psk, and HF. Bill to supply agenda.
April topic – antennas. (Newsletter Editor's Note – This has been changed)
May topic – Digital mode. (Newsletter Editor's Note – This has been changed)
June topic – Field Day.
July topic – NASA slides and movies.

New Business:

- Rick proposed a committee be formed to oversee donated equipment. This would include soliciting, valuing, disposal and being nice to donors.
- Mike is calling for the first Field Day meeting to be on Saturday, April 5. The Richmond Fire Field is to be used. Around 6 laptops will be completely networked together for logging purposes.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:44.

To all BVARC members.

I am extremely grateful for all of your support and concern for my health after my recent surgery. It was GREAT, to know that folks were thinking about me and were kind enough to visit, call or e-mail. Thank you to all.

Now, according to my 4 bosses (3 doctors and the XYL), I will be back at semi-full steam in May and at full steam by July. I apologize for having to delay the (April meeting) "5 'Tennas" antenna presentation until May, but invite you out on May 8th to see and hear about the 5 different antennas that will be highlighted by 5 different Hams that evening.

Thank you all. Sincerely, Rick – W5RH

BVARC Historical Vignettes – BVARC and the Houston SHOT Chapter of 10-10 International

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

For more than two decades there has been a close relationship between BVARC and the Houston SHOT chapter of Ten Ten International. The SHOT chapter was formed in September 1975 two years prior to the founding of BVARC.

Ten Ten International (<http://www.ten-ten.org/>) was formed in 1962 to promote use of the 10 meter band. There was a great deal of concern among amateur radio operators at the time that the FCC would take the 10 meter band away from amateur radio as they had done with the 11 meter band a few years earlier when the Citizens Band Radio Service was created. Seven Houston area amateur radio operators met at the home of Bob Libbers, WB5FII, to form a Houston chapter of Ten Ten International. They decided to name the chapter Space Houston On Ten which soon became known by the acronym SHOT. Today, Ten Ten International has approximately 85 chapters located worldwide. Most of the chapters are in the United States with DX chapters located in England, Germany, New Zealand, Australia, Belgium and Canada.

It seemed natural that BVARC members would join the SHOT chapter. The BVARC Rag Chew Net originally started on 10 meters (The Rag Chew Net moved to 75 meters in Jan 1985) and many BVARC members already had 10 meter antennas and experience operating on that band. Perhaps the strongest tie between the SHOT chapter and BVARC was Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG. Stu was editor of the BVARC Bulletin and also the Certificate Manager (CM) for Houston SHOT.

Bob Libbers, WB5FII, who organized the SHOT chapter was the first chapter head (CH) and watched the chapter grow through its early years. Bob decided to step down as chapter head in 1982 and turned leadership over to Mike Davidson, N5MT, who has remained chapter head since that time. One problem facing the SHOT chapter in its early years was that there was not a regular net control station each week. Mike, N5MT, came forward in the summer of 1979 and volunteered to serve as net control. Mike has now been NCS for over 1380 SHOT chapter nets.

The Houston SHOT Chapter has the distinction of setting record breaking scores in the twice-a-year Ten Ten International Phone QSO Party. A Ten Ten QSO Party is a laid back, easy pace contest where chapters compete with other chapters. In the late 1980's and early 1990's the Houston SHOT chapter was unbeatable. The SHOT chapter had high score for eight consecutive phone QSO parties. The SHOT chapter also managed to get the high score in a couple of the CW QSO parties during that time period.

The participation of BVARC members was responsible of much of this success. In one QSO party, a total of 74 SHOT chapter members participated and the logs totaled 31,000 points setting a record for the highest number of points ever submitted by a chapter in a Ten Ten Phone QSO Party. The second place chapter had only 28 participants and 11,000 points.

Now that we have reached the bottom of the solar cycle, propagation on 10 meters has nowhere to go but up. If you want to learn more about the Houston SHOT chapter check out their web page (<http://www.clarc.org/shot/>), or better yet, check into the SHOT net held every Tuesday evening at 8 pm local time on 28.488 MHz.

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

BP MS150

Houston to Austin Bike Tour

7:00 am

Saturday and Sunday, April 12 and 13, 2008

Communications Meetings will be held on Monday, April 7th and Wednesday, April 9th at 7 pm at the NMSS office at 8111 North Stadium Drive, just north of the Astrodome/Reliant Stadium area. All operators need to attend one of the meetings for maps, ride information, tee shirts and any overnight arrangements that are needed.

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

Amateur radio volunteers need a 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. **If you are assigned to a break-point, you must also have a MURS VHF radio.** 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.

Volunteer hours begin at 4:00 am sharp on Saturday morning and will end between 8 and 11 pm on Sunday. There will be 2 informational meetings the week before the ride - one on Monday April 7th and one on Wednesday, April 9th. All operators need to only attend one meeting or the other, not both (You can attend both if you wish but the information given out will be the same at each meeting.

If you think you are ready for the challenge on helping out on this premier event, please go to www.houstonhams.org to sign and volunteer today. For more information please contact me at 713-826-6917.

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

Results of the March 1st Greater Houston Hamfest
AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION
by: John Moore, KK5NU

The BVARC VE Exam Team sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Saturday, March 1, 2008 at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in Rosenberg, TX.

We were joined by the ECHO/K3FL VE Exam Team.

ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE VE EXAM TEAM

Dennis Dietrich, W5DDD	Jeff Fussell, KD5VGE
Larry Jacobson, K5LJ	Franz Laugermann, KL3FL
John Moore, KK5NU	Mike Nault, W5OFT
George Ontko, KM5VP	

Twenty eight examination elements were administered during the day to twenty four applicants. Eight new Technician licenses and two new General licenses were attained; there were five additional upgrades to General class and two upgrades to Amateur Extra, with the total number of elements passed being 19. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 67.9%.

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

Michael N. Brazda	- KR5QJX	- General
Lionel B. Briggs	-	- Technician
Clifford E. Corley	-	- Technician
Allan J. Darnell	-	- Technician
John S. Denson	- KD5YOU	- General
Robert P. Ferguson	- K5AWC	- General
Frederick J. Gaugler	- KE5PPE	- General
Roy C. Kuhn	-	- Technician
Christopher Loyd	-	- Technician
Ralph M. McElvany	-	- Technician
William S. McNally	-	- Technician
Charles F. Mulraney	-	- Technician
Sachiklo Peet	- KE5PXQ	- General
Michael J. Primeaux, Sr.	-	- General
Douglas J. Seyler	- WB5TKI	- Amateur Extra
David A. Schultz	-	- General
Stephen W. Shugart	- KE5PXT	- Amateur Extra

Many thanks to all the Team Members and Assistants who volunteer their valuable time and effort each month; and to the ECHO/K3FL team for joining us in this session.

..... 73

BVARC VE Exam Team Report for 2007

During the calendar year 2007, the Brazos Valley ARC VE Exam Team conducted the regularly scheduled "Second Tuesday" Amateur Radio License Exam session for each of the twelve months of the year; with the exception of the month of March -- The March Exam Session was held in conjunction with the Hamfest.

With the exception of the August session, for which no candidates were in attendance; the total number of examinees for the year was 136.

45 new Technician licensees were attained; 49 General class licenses were attained and 15 Amateur Extra licensees were attained; for a total license count of 109.

Thanks again to all of the members of the VE Exam Team -- without their tireless participation, all of this would not have happened.

We've also been assisted by the Houston ECHO VE team members at the hamfest event.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost at the hamfest, BOSCH drill bag. Contains a charger & battery(no drill). Found 50' orange extension cord. Contact Robert at 713-248-1381 or kd5yvq@arrl.net

Robert.



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SUBSCRIBE TO THE BVARC REFLECTOR (also called the BVARC LIST-SERVER)

Would you like to get the latest information on BVARC such as meeting, location or program changes? The easiest way is to simply join (free) the BVARC Reflector. Those individuals coordinating various events usually send out notices via the reflector and you will receive these immediately in your e-mail. Go to: http://mail.clarc.org/mailman/listinfo/bvarc_clarc.org and follow the directions. They ask a few questions and in about 24 hours you will be receiving these messages. Do not use an "alias" e-mail address (such as K5???@arrl.net) because if you upload a message, it will be rejected (the site compares your "sent" address with the address that the upload is submitted on and they must match). That sounds easy enough.

2008 Club Officers:

President:

Charles "Frosty" Frost, K5LBU
frosty1@pdq.net

Vice President:

Rick Hiller
rhiller@sdicgm.com

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:

Sid Sherwood, N5ZKD
n5zkd@ar1.net

Recording Secretary:

Pete Sauermilch
kd5qpx@ar1.net

Board Member:

Arnold Knoche
jakadaok@aol.com

Board Member:

Bill Stone, W5SH
dragntow@wt.net

At Large Board Member

(Past President):

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
n5vcx@worldnet.att.net

Club Happenings:

General Meeting

Second Thursday each month,
Sugar Land Community Center,
226 Matlage Way

Board of Directors Meeting

First Thursday of each month,
Sugar Land Community Center,
See the website.

Volunteer Examiner Program

BVARC administers Amateur License
Exams on the 2nd Tuesday of each month
at the HCC Scarcella Technology
Campus, 10141 Cash Rd. in Stafford.
Contact John Moore, KK5NU
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:

Either 59 DINER, or IHOP, or OTHER.

Check your email and listen to the 2 M, 10 M, & 75 M nets for name,
address, and time each week until further notice.

New York Coffee Shop, 7:30a.m., 9720 Hillcroft, in Houston.

THIRD FRIDAY DINNER:

April 18, 2008, 7:30p.m., at

TIO PEPE'S SPANISH RESTAURANT, 5213 Cedar in Bellaire,
1 Blk. N of Bellaire Blvd. & 2-1/2 blks. E of Chimney Rock.

NOTE: In the last ten years +/- I have enjoyed making reservations for 3rd
Friday dinners and notifying the newsletter editor each month along with the
location of Saturday Breakfasts. I now find it necessary to cease the effort. If
the tradition is to continue, someone else will have to do it. SAM WILSON,
N5CPA.

UPCOMING FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

April – IRLP

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

Upcoming Hamfests

(within 200 miles of Houston)

Hamfest info for the next few months. More information at:
<http://www.ar1.org/hamfests.html#listing>

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>

Pearland Amateur Radio Club Tailgate Sale

May 3 @ the Parking lot of the Pearland High School
on Hwy 35 & Oiler Rd. 8 to 12.

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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Serving Amateur Radio for Southwest Houston and Fort Bend County
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BVARC Website: <http://www.bvarc.org>
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Claude Sessions, K5HFY, 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 or see the BVARC website: www.bvarc.org

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APRIL 2008

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

**BVARC General Membership Meeting, IRLP
– Thursday, April 10, 2008.**

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