



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

MAY 2008

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 5

BVARC MAY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING The Five Tennas (5 different mini-presentations on antennas) 7:30 PM, Thursday, May 8, 2008

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

May Meeting Presentation

The presentation for the May 8th meeting is entitled "The 5 'Tennas'". This mini-antenna seminar will highlight the practical aspects of 5 very different antennas, presented by 5 different BVARC members. The antennas discussed will be a shortened 75 meter dipole, a 10 meter Moxon rectangle, a W8JK phased HF array, a 40/80 meter Delta Loop and a 4 element Stepper IR and tower installation. We invite you to attend and ask that you also invite all of your Ham friends to attend this special BVARC May 8th meeting and mini-antenna seminar."

APRIL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The topic was the IRLP (Internet Radio Linking Project) presented by Steve Agee, N5ZUA.



Steve Agee, N5ZUA, the featured speaker



IRLP Micro-Node Repeater



Bill, WS5H, checking out the keys being auctioned



Scott Royall, KE5NPZ, enjoying the presentation

President's Message

Due to travel requirements, the President was unable to provide a message this month.

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

BVARC Historical Vignettes – BVARC and ARRL Field Day

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

A previous Historical Vignette told the story of how BVARC was founded in 1977 for the primary purpose of providing emergency communications for the Fort Bend County area. We all know that participation in ARRL Field Day is one of the best ways for an amateur radio club to prepare and train for providing communications in an emergency. The first time BVARC participated in ARRL Field Day was in 1979 when BVARC's Field Day was held at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds. Since that time, the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club has participated in Field Day for 29 consecutive years. This is truly an accomplishment that all members of BVARC should be proud of.

During the past 29 years, BVARC's Field Day has been held at nine different locations. The most frequented locations have been the Fort Bend County Fire Department Training Center and Katy County Park, each having been the Field Day location for six years. Bear Creek Park was the location for five years, with Brazos Bend State Park trailing right behind with four years. Other locations were the grassy area behind the Missouri City Fire Station for two years, and Bay Area Park, the Eason Ranch in Bellville, and George Bush Park with one year each.

BVARC ARRL Field Day Sites, 1979-2007

Location	Number of Years
Fort Bend County Fire Department Training Center	6
Katy County Park	6
Bear Creek Park	5
Brazos Bend State Park	4
Fort Bend County Fairgrounds	3
Missouri City Fire Station	2
Bay Area Park	1
Eason Ranch	1
George Bush Park	1

Total 29

Many different people chaired BVARC's Field Day over the years. In the early years of the club, Henry Freedenberg, N5HF, chaired Field Day from 1979 through 1982. Allen Brier, N5XZ, chaired Field Day from 1995 through 1997 when it was held at Katy County Park. And later, Allen co-chaired Field Day with John Chauvin, K5IZO, and Ross Lawler, W5HFF, when it was held at the Fort Bend County Fire Department Training Center from 2004 through 2006. Many other club members, too numerous to mention in this short article, also made important contributions to BVARC's Field Day operation over the years. We should all be proud of our club's accomplishment of participating in ARRL Field Day for 29 consecutive years.

The Ongoing Apprenticeship

by

Bill Stone – WS5H

This is the first run of a column for BVARC members to share their Amateur Radio projects, experiences, and tips with other club members and readers of this newsletter. New and experienced Hams are encouraged to send an article to our newsletter editor for publication.

In future issues look for small tips from me on the 6-BTV vertical ground mount antenna project, digi-modes/HF PSK, simple homebrew / make shift / throw together antennas, older inexpensive radio gear worthy of primary station service and just maybe some experiences with a few elementary electronic repairs.

WHY TUNE FOR 10

I was licensed in October of 2004 as a Tech and still had the frog in my throat. I listened around on 2 meters and maybe made a local contact only now and then. Before my first ham exam I had picked up an old Yaesu CPU 2500R for VHF (I still run it in the mobile) and a HR-2510, 10 meter mobile rig, in the hopes that some day I could get my feet wet with 10 meter HF. As a CB'er, on sideband in the very early 70's, (when SSB on 11 was almost structured enough for local QSO's) my old license KY0-3392. I enjoyed AM & SSB, but knew something had to be better than channelized CB. And there was –10 Meters! By June 2005 I had put elements 1-3 behind me and proudly used /AG on the end of my call sign. From time to time I fired up the 10 meter rig and one day I was surprised – contacts came on 10 meters -- it was a 10-10 phone contest. From then on, it was off to the races making contacts, collecting 10-10 numbers and getting the feel for HF.

I met a lot of Hams on 10 that helped me along and now I have enough experience to help others. 10 meters is a very cool band. The HAMS are very friendly and willing to answer any question that you may have.

Tips for 10 -- we have just begun with Solar Cycle 24, so the band will begin to peek in a few years and then most any antenna will give you satisfactory results. For now though, if you're operating a vertical, dipole, or longwire ect. , get it up as high as possible. Most beginning Hams on 10 are a bit disappointed with the DX performance, unless the base of the antenna is at least 40 ft. on the vertical. As with any dipole, elevation is the key to DX. Maybe even try a Quad. My V Quad is at 24 feet with good directional capability and a low angle of take-off radiation. More on antennas in another posting.

Listen for the 10 meter beacons between 28,200 and 28,300. If you hear a few beacons, try to make a contact on or around 28,400. If you don't hear a beacon, scan the band anyway, as you may hear stations and not a beacon. When I hear DX beacons, I get pileups on my calls. If you don't hear anything, call out CQ for 5 minutes and see what happens. If everyone is listening and no one calls CQ, the band remains dead. Hey, your radio is not a scanner, it's a TRANSCIEVER!!! Have fun with it.

We get trans-equatorial propagation, sometimes, in the afternoon, late. I pick up South And Central American DX. In this February's 10-10 Phone Contest, I worked my call and the club call, W5DPA, (2 for 1 contacts). When even the Big Gun Stations were not making contacts near at the end of the contest (I think super bowl had something to do with that) I spun my V Quad south and called CQDX. My Last 8 Contacts were Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, and Paraguay. My last contact was LU1BJW, Horacio, Argentina 10-10# 39329. We will post our 10-10 club entry results in a future issue. In the 2007 Summer Phone Contest, KK5W club call ranked 2nd place.

I think it's real important to note that the Houston S.H.O.T. Net, "Space Houston On Ten", meets every Tues. Night at 8PM local time on 28,488 USB. Net Control Mike, N5MT, is located in the Astrodome area and check-in's locally are north to around Conroe, south to Santa Fe, and west to Fry Road. On the "out skirts" of the local converge area, if you can't contact Net Control, other members of the net can relay you in.

I cut my teeth on 10 with the S.H.O.T. Net and, as with our Wednesday evening 3910 KHz, 75 meter Rag Chew Net, its good to check in and check out your stations performance. Become acquainted with fellow HF Hams in your area ON THE AIR! Especially in simplex mode -- something other than just VHF/UHF Repeaters. New Hams are encouraged to become more involved with the Techs new privileges in the FCC Band plan on 10 Meter phone.

I have passed my Extra Class Exam and now have all band allocations, yet mostly all my QSO cards and contacts are on 10. By the way, a lot of our elder statesman, big gun operators in the club, and in our area, can also be found on 10.

Well, this is just a little bit of the little I know about 10 meters. More to be revealed later. TUNE FOR 10 – YOU HAVE TO MAKE CONTACTS TO GET RESULTS -- 10 WORKS, IF YOU WORK IT.

WS5H Bill Stone

Minutes of April 3rd, 2008 Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club:

Charles Frost called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:11 PM on April 3rd, 2008 at Fudrucker's, 11445 Fountain Lake Drive, Stafford, TX . Attending were: Charles Frost, K5LBU; (Pres.); Arnold Knoche, K5ADA (At-Large Dir.); Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.); Bill Stone, WS5H (At-Large Dir.); Norma Stone, KE5NDN; Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; John Chauvin, K5IZO; Randy Pollard, AK5G; Ross Lawler, W5HFF; Pete Norris, KJ5SS; Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ; and David Barber, KE5NDB.

- 1) Minutes for the March 2008 meeting were approved as read.
- 2) No Treasurer's Report was presented.
- 3) Old Business: A report was given on the Hamfest Debriefing Meeting. Chauvin collected comments. Future hamfests are planned to be held on the 1st Saturday in March.
- 4) General Meetings:
 - a) April: Steve Agee, IRLP
 - b) May: Antennas
 - c) June: Main Event TBD. 10 minutes will be devoted to Field Day.
 - d) July: TBD
 - e) August: Ice Cream Social and Video night
 - f) September: ISS Photo Show
 - g) October: TBD
 - h) November: Elections and Chili Night
 - i) December: Homebrew 'Contest'
- 5) New Business:
 - a) Equipment Donations: Discussion about club needing a committee to receive donated equipment. If equipment is to be sold, committee would set appropriate pricing.
 - b) Field Day: Chairperson will be Mike Hardwick
 - c) Contest Editor: Discussion about club needing a contest editor for the newsletter. No action taken.
 - d) Sam Wilson thanked in absentia for his excellent work arranging BVARC eating venues.
- 6) Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX

FIELD DAY – JUNE 28 – 29

The time is near for the 2009 ARRL Field Day. The initial organizational meeting was held a few weeks back so look forward to future and upcoming planning activities. The next organizational meeting will be held on Saturday, May 10th after the regular BVARC breakfast. There are many ways to participate for field day besides as an operator. But as always we need operators! To participate in any way, contact me, Mike Hardwick, N5VCX at n5vcx@worldnet.att.net or call me at 713-826-6917. Get ready for a great time in June!

Coming Up

Tour de Braz Bike Ride Sunday 8 am June 8, 2008 Alvin, Texas

<http://www.alvintexas.org/tdb/index.shtml>

Bike ride in the Alvin/Highway 35 area starting at 7:00 am and ending at approximately 5:00 pm.

Needing 20 operators to provide communications for break points, medical and SAG vehicles for event support.

Operators will meet at Alvin Restaurant at 1109 West Hwy 6 at 2nd Street at 5:30 am for maps, tee shirts and final event information.

Talk-in and event will be on the 145.11 repeater (minus offset, 123 tone).

If more information is needed please feel free to call me at 713-826-6917

Thanks,

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX. Communications Coordinator

Katy Flatland Century Bike Ride Sunday 7 am July 20, 2008 Katy Mills Mall, Katy, Texas

<http://www.northwestcyclingclub.com/club/rides/kfc.html>

Bike ride in the Katy/Interstate 10 area starting at 7:00 am and ending at approximately 5:00 pm.

Needing 20 operators to provide communications for break points, medical and SAG vehicles for event support.

Operators will meet at Denny's on Fry road just north of Interstate 10 at 5:00 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).

If more information is needed please feel free to call me at 832-654-9583

Thanks,

Dave Scott, WD8RZA, Communications Coordinator

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

Below is the BVARC Rag Chew Net check-in information:

03/26/08- K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, KE5SR, N5CPA, KJ5SS, WA5FMK, W5RH, KE5NDB, KE5LUW, WB5VWB, K5LJ, WS5H, W5RFI, W5UHZ (Beaumont), KB5VTB, KE5DJA (Leesville, LA), KC5JAR, KD7THJ, KZ5I, K5JWM, KB5ION, AF5T, KD5YOU, KC5HUB, KE5BCD, K5LBU. (26 check-ins)

04/02/08- K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, N5CPA, KC5FFX (Jonesboro, La.), KQ5TF, KE5NDB, KC5NAM, KC5JAR, K5KJS, K5LBU, WS5H, AA5OA, WB5EXI, K5HFY, W5FTV, K5LOT, WA5FMK, W5RH, K5CAM, K5LLF, WB5VWB, K5SEE, K5VIN (Schulenburg) (24 check-ins)

04/09/08- K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, KJ5SS, KE5SR, WA5OEN, W5UHZ (Beaumont), N5CPA, K5LBU, KE5NDB, WS5H, AA5OA, AF5T, K5CAM, WD5CQG, KD5YVQ, KQ5TF, KZ5I, KE5RFM, K5HFY, K5LOT, WA5CYI, W5FZ. (22 check-ins)

04/16/08- K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, KE5SR, N5CPA, KJ5SS, W5RH, KB5ION, WA5FMK, K5UAO (Alexandria, LA), W5UHZ (Beaumont), K5CAM, WS5H, K5LJ, KE5NDB, WB5PNL, KE5DJA (Leesville, LA), KZ5I, W5FZ, KA5MEI, K5LBU, AF5T, WB5EXI, WB5KTF, KD5YOU, K5HFY, WB5VWB.
(26 check-ins)

Thanks.

Regards.

John C. Whiteman



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**RESULTS OF THE April 8th
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, April 8, 2008 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Dennis Dietrich, W5DDD
Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
George Ontko, KM5VP

Jeff Fussell, KD5VGE
John Moore, KK5NU

Eight examination elements were administered during the evening to eight applicants. Three new Technician licenses were attained; two upgrades to General and one upgrade to Amateur Extra class, with the total number of elements passed being 6. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 75%.

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

Adam E. Dewberry	KE5TQU	General
Lynda Elliott -	KE5TUU -	Amateur Extra
Randell A. Kocurek -	KE5TZG -	Technician
Becky L. Leonard -	KE5TZF -	Technician
Jerome A. McKown -	KE5TZI -	General
Michael J. Neal -	KE5TZH -	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.

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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:

2/4 - 23 - Cam, k5cam	3/3 - 27 - Cam, k5cam	3/31 - 20 - Sid, n5zkd
2/11 - 22 - Bill, ws5h	3/10 - 22 - Sid, n5zkd	4/7 - 20 - Cam, k5cam
2/18 - 18 - Marni, ke5msd	3/17 - 14 - Bill, ws5h	4/14 - 31 - Bill, ws5h
2/25 - 28 - Pete, kd5qpx	3/24 - 19 - Pete, kd5qpx	4/21 - 14 - Marni, ke5msd

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@arri.net

Recording Secretary:

Pete Sauermilch
kd5qpx@arri.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:

59 DINER, 7:30 a.m., SW Freeway, outbound feeder road, near Kirkwood
New York Coffee Shop, 7:30a.m., 9720 Hillcroft, in Houston.

THIRD FRIDAY DINNER:

As this goes to press, no one has stepped up to start scheduling these
dinners.

UPCOMING FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

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.arri.org/hamfests.html#listing>

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.2008springcreekparkway.com), Plano, TX
Talk-In: 147.18 (PL 107.2)
<http://www.hamcom.org/>

Texas City Hamfest

8 am to 2 pm Saturday, July 12, 2008
Doyle Convention Center, Texas City
<http://tidelands.org/2008hamfestinfo.htm>
Over 100 inside tables with tail gating outside.
Transmitter Hunt food and lots of prizes. Visit webpage for more info.

Austin Summer Fest & Texas State Convention

Friday and Saturday, August 1st & 2nd, 2008
Wyndham Garden Hotel, Austin
<http://www.austinsummerfest.info/>
Will be held at the Wyndham Garden Hotel at 3401 south IH-35 near
highway 71.
Talk-in 149.940 (minus offset, no tone)
Contact: Joe Makeever, W5HS w5hs at arri dot net 512-345-0800



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BVARC Website: <http://www.bvarc.org>
Editor: John Chauvin, K5IZO, k5izo@yahoo.com
Production Team: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, k5cam@arri.net
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 7:00 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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MAY 2008

**BRAZOS VALLEY
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SUGAR LAND, TX 77487-2997
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

**BVARC General Membership Meeting, "The Five Tennas"
– Thursday, May 8, 2008, 7:30 PM.**

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