



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

OCTOBER 2008

VOLUME 32 | ISSUE 10

## BVARC SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA

7:30 PM, Thursday, October 9, 2008

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

### **Digital Delights (PSK and other digital modes)** (Rescheduled from Hurricane Cancelled September Meeting)

The October 9<sup>th</sup> General meeting technical presentation will be "Digital Delights", presented by Larry, K5LJ. Digital Delights will continue our recent presentation focus of the practical aspects of getting you on the air. Larry will provide a "hand-on" approach to digital operation. Explaining theory, equipment, software required and actual operation. He hopes to get an antenna up at the Community Center to do some on the air operation. A hand out of the slides and references will be available for all attendees. Come out and join us at the October meeting for an evening of Digital Delights.

There will also be some Ham Radio "You Tube" shorts, and, of course, the normal club reports and announcements of on-air, public service and social activities.



### September General Membership Meeting

The September meeting was cancelled due to the approach of Hurricane Ike. See above for the rescheduled presentation to be made at the October meeting.



## President's Message

Greetings to everyone,

I hope that by now everyone and everything has returned to normal what ever that happens to be. From what I have heard most of the members had little damage to their homes and antennas. I also hope that everyone now has their power back on.

I went from Friday till the next Sunday with out power but by Thursday I was looking for a generator and found that Sears on 90A just before the Brazos river bridge going into Richmond had a supply of 3.7Kw ones. I went there on the way home from my radiation treatment and got one. That night I just ran a cord to the computer for a hour to do email. Then Friday morning wired it up to the breaker box. It was nice to have good coffee and fans running. I even washed clothes Saturday.

My T8 was turned on the mast but nothing else happen. There was a good turn out for breakfast on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> but this Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> the group was low.

Well once more I hope that everyone is doing great now that Ike is gone and only lives in our memory.

Frosty  
K5LBU



**Cam's (K5CAM) "barndominium" with ham antenna and observatory near Cat Springs.**



## Minutes of the September 4<sup>th</sup>, 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 7:08 PM on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 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.); Cam Mitchell, K5CAM; Ross Lawler, W5HFF; David Barber, K5NDB; David Bogart, N5EMG.

- 1) Minutes for the August 2008 meeting were approved as they were distributed at this meeting.
- 2) Treasurer's Report was not presented to and the Board.
- 3) Old Business:
  - a) Ham Fest report to the board was presented in the form of distributed hard copy of an email from John Chauvin to Charles Frost. Main points of report were:
    - i) Meeting held previous Thursday. Major items agreed to were:
      - (1) Rent both sides of Bldg. D but not divide said building.
      - (2) Will rent kitchen area of Bldg. D.
      - (3) Will also rent Bldg. C and Sherrif's Trailer.
    - ii) Revised volunteer spreadsheet
    - iii) Need more volunteers for event.
    - iv) Many action items start in September.
    - v) Kirk Kendreck to head on-line registration.
  - b) Arnold Knoche reported to the board that the initial meeting with Fort Bend County went as well as expected. This meeting discussed the request from BVARC that it be allowed to use county facilities for a meeting place and locate a radio station at that site. The county representative, Jeff Braun, requested that BVARC submit a letter stating the specifics of our request. Arnold submitted such a letter.
  - c) Peter Sauermilch reported to the board that Fort Bend County intended to purchase equipment to install on one of the Missouri City television towers as a UHF repeater and VHF digipeater. This equipment was to be under the control of EMROG, the Fort Bend Emergency Radio Operators Group.
- 4) New business:
  - a) David Barber requested that future ham balloon launches be announced in the newsletter with sufficient advance notice so the club members can attend them.
  - b) Bill Stone proposed to the board that Memorial Hermann hospital be considered as an alternative location for the long awaited digipeater.
- 5) Schedule: No changes from last month.
- 6) Other Business: None
- 7) Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX



Editor's Note: Because of many personal, business and post-Ike recovery activities, time did not allow for thorough editing of this edition of the BVARC Newsletter. Any errors or omissions noted will be referenced in next month's issue.

# 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

6/16 - 25 - Bill, ws5h  
6/23 - 24 - Pete, kd5qpx  
6/30 - 21 - Sid, n5zkd  
7/7 - 29 - Cam, k5cam  
7/14 - 23 - Sid, n5zkd

7/21 - 25 - Bill, ws5h  
7/28 - 22 - Pete, kd5qpx  
8/4 - 19 - Cam, k5cam  
8/11 - 24 - Pete, kd5qpx  
8/18 - 20 - Marni, ke5msd

8/25 - 22 - Pete, kd5qpx  
9/1 - 21 - Cam, k5cam  
9/8 - 23 - Bill, ws5h  
9/15 - 24 - Bill, ws5h  
9/22 - 20 - Pete, kd5qpx



## Coming Up

### **Lyondell Bike Around the Bay**

Saturday & Saturday 6 am Sat to Anahauc to Galveston to

October 18 & 19, 2008 4 pm Sun Texas City to Baytown

20 operators needed for communications Rick Broussard, N5KJN, 281-851-7987

### **Moonlight Ramble**

Sunday, October 26, 2008 2 am to 5 am Downtown Houston 15 operators needed for communications

Jeff Walter, KE5FGA, 281-467-8595

### **Novemberfest Metric Century**

Saturday, November 8, 2008 7 am to 4 pm San Felipe/Sealy area 15 operators needed for communications

Dave Scott, WD8RZA, 832-654-9583

### **Bike the Bend Bike Ride**

Sunday, November 23, 2008 7 am to 4 pm Richmond/Wallis area 12 operators needed for communications

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, 713-826-6917



### **Houston Amateur Radio Supply**

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



## LOCAL AMATEUR RADIO SUPPORT FOR HURRICANE IKE

Submitted by Pete Sauermilch

As people returned to work after Hurricane Ike, there were likely a million conversations in the workplace centered on "Where I was when ...". Probably fewer than 50 used the words "ICS-213", "CO-1R", "EOC", "emergency generator failed to start", or "tower had fallen". Those were words used by hams stationed in the emergency operations centers in Harris, Fort Bend, Brazoria, and Galveston counties.

Few in BVARC realize that about 19% of the membership also belongs to another organization in Fort Bend County, EMROG (Emergency Radio Operators Group). EMROG is the ham group servicing the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management (FBCOEM). EMROG is comprised of both Fort Bend County RACES and ARES members. EMROG attempts to place amateur radio operators at the Fort Bend municipal EOCs (Emergency Operations Centers), the major Fort Bend hospitals (Methodist, Memorial-Hermann, Oak Bend, the Richmond State School), and the FBCOEM. But what is emergency service like you ask?

Midsummer 2008: Hurricanes Dolly and Eduard come onshore in July and August. The local emergency apparatus reacts. EMROG deployment plans are formed for each. Both storms dealt grief to someone else. Bullets are dodged. Life goes on.

August 30<sup>th</sup>: A work party assembles at FBOEM. Several roof top antennas are repaired. A new VHF/UHF radio and antenna is installed. A HF loop is replaced with a 40/75M dipoles. Coax runs are identified, replace, sealed, secured. The next day tropical storm Gustav becomes a hurricane. Gustav makes land-fall in Louisiana two days later. Again a local miss. As Gustav triggers contingency plans. People note the things that don't work as thought. Procedures are revised. EMROG is more prepared because the work party of Bob Baker (K5LLF), Richard Goldy (K5GOL), Allan Hill (NQ5B), Kirk Kendrick (W5KMK), Charles Kimtantas (WB5EXI), Scott McKee (NT5SM), Dave Spilman (K5PIL), and Pete Sauermilch (KD5QPX) fixed those little things that often go neglected.

September 3<sup>rd</sup>: With little fanfare, Tropical Storm Ike becomes Hurricane Ike. September 8<sup>th</sup> (Monday): Ike crosses the lower half of Cuba. FBCOEM elevates from Readiness Level 4 (Normal) to Level 3 (Increased). September 9<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday): Ike crosses north-western Cuba and enters the Gulf of Mexico. An availability status request is made to EMROG members. September 10<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday): Ike is 12 hours past Cuba. FBCOEM elevates to Readiness Level 2 (High). 12 hour shifts begun at FBCOEM. EMROG deployment assignments are distributed. Emails and telephone calls are exchanged among Harris County ARES, Brazoria County ARES, and EMROG. Points of contact, repeater frequencies, and protocols for contacting each other are confirmed. Email reminders are sent from EMROG to Fort Bend County municipal EOCs again offering hams and requesting information on their activation plans. September 11 (Thursday): Allen Hill (NQ5B), Pete Sauermilch (KD5QPX) alternate shifts at FBCOEM. September 12 (Friday): Ike is 24 to 36 hours from Galveston. FBCOEM elevates to Readiness Level 4 (Maximum). Richmond, Rosenberg, Sugar Land, Stafford, and Missouri City activate their EOCs at various times during the day. Methodist and Memorial-Hermann hospitals mobilize their resources. Richmond State School evacuates to Brenham. EMROG operators put their own houses in order and deploy. Bob Baker (K5LLF) takes Missouri City without back-up. Dennis Harper (KC5QDN), Bob Hall (KE5BOB) take Richmond. Charles Kimtantas (WB5EXI), Cam Mitchell (K5CAM) take Sugar Land. Dave Spilman (K5PIL), Arnold Knoche (K5ADA) take Rosenberg. Don Goehring (KE5LJY) takes Stafford without back-up. LeMoyne Boyer (KD5JCY), Ross Lawlyer (W5HFF) take Memorial-Hermann Sugar Land. Richard Tappan (W5RFT) takes Methodist Sugar Land without back-up. Darkness falls on Friday evening with increasing wind and rain. It was a dark and stormy night.

Absolutely nothing is quite as mind-numbingly boring in emergency services as when things work as advertised. Lights stay on. Telephones work. The internet stays up. Eyelids try to slam shut. There isn't a book good enough or coffee strong enough. That's how it started, no how it ended. Fort Bend operated an informal net on 145.490. Harris, Fort Bend, Brazoria EOCs did likewise on 145.110. It would change to a formal net if traffic load merited. It never did. About midnight Freeport reported to Brazoria EOC 70 to 80mph sustained wind, gusting to 91. Brazoria EOC moved operations twice because of building concerns. Their windows were bowing inward at the third location. Then the 145.110 repeater went quiet. The repeater emergency generator had failed to start. We never heard from Brazoria again on any repeater. Several other repeaters fell silent during the early morning, some remain so. Repeaters linking Fort Bend and Harris counties remained up. It was difficult to tell what repeaters still functioned. At FBCOEM one of the three communications towers folded over into a parking lot from the wind. At about the same time, two of the VHF/UHF antennas toppled over despite being secured by two 40 pound concrete

anchors. The new HF antenna remained up. FBCOEM power failed and returned some two dozen times. Each time the emergency generator did not start because the grid quickly came back. The real-time internet interagency EOC-EOC communications program came and went with each outage. Richmond, Rosenberg, Stafford, Missouri City had similar power interruptions. Methodist and Memorial-Hermann went to emergency generators early on and stayed there. The internet connections proved no more robust. Even ham radio proved vulnerable. Everyone thought the generators were reliable. No EOC had battery back-up for the radio gear. At Memorial-Hermann a paging system made the VHF ham station deaf. At Methodist, the station had been moved to an elevator equipment room because of construction. No one complained. They just figured a way around the problem and went forward. At the EOCs, maintenance people made generators run. Memorial-Hermann used a UHF repeater. Methodist used an HT from a different floor. IT people powered EOC server rooms from who knows where. Internet communications came back with the connections. At one location, all computers were manually reconfigured one at a time for a back-up server. It is an impressive thing to see people do a job under trying conditions. Personally I think it brings out the best. That is what I saw.

Sunday morning, the sun came up and people started digging out. EOCs started standing-down from emergency operation. Recovery operations commenced. The hams were released by their EOCs as they stood-down. Most felt they were indeed lucky. Some, not so much so. It is easy to think it is all about location, location, location. That is partially true. It is also about, "Be Prepared". Thank you R.S.S. Baden-Powell.



### Articles regarding Amateur Radio Help for Hurricane Ike:

Here is an article from College Station -

<http://www.theeagle.com/columnists/-Ham--operators-gave-valuable-help>

Here is an article from Galveston about Kevin & Sharon Briscoe (KE5CDE and KE5CFF) who are very familiar to BVARC.

<http://galvestondailynews.com/story.lasso?ewcd=466a21e6842815c2>



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## West University Place Cell Phone Ordinance Also Prohibits Amateur Radio

by Allen Mattis N5AFV

Most amateur radio operators in the Houston metropolitan area have heard about the new city of West University Place ordinance that bans the use of cell phones by drivers in moving vehicles within three blocks of West University Elementary School located at 3756 University Boulevard. What most Houston area amateur radio operators may not know is that the ordinance also prohibits the use of amateur radio by drivers in moving vehicles in school zones.

The complete text of the West University Place cell phone ordinance reads as follows:

Sec. 46-55. Use of communications devices in school areas while driving.

(a) Definitions. The following definitions apply to this section:

*Engage in a call* shall mean talking into, dialing, listening on, entering or reading text messages or viewing images and/or text on a mobile communications device.

*Mobile communications device* shall mean a mobile telephone, "smart" phone, personal digital assistant, pager or other device by which the user communicates to another, or receives communication from another, by means of voice communications, text entry, text receipt or any other means of electronically transferred data.

*School area* shall mean those areas designated as such in section 46-47 of this Code of Ordinances.

(b) Except as otherwise provided below, it shall be unlawful for a person to engage in a call while operating a moving motor vehicle in a school area, on an official school day, during the hours when school zones are in effect, and when school zone signs and signs prohibiting mobile communications device use are posted.

(c) The operator of a motor vehicle is presumed to engage in a call if such operator holds a mobile communications device to or in the immediate proximity of his ear while such vehicle is in motion. "Immediate proximity" shall mean the distance permitting the user of a mobile communications device to hear telecommunications transmitted over such device, but shall not require physical contact with such operator's ear.

(d) Subsection (b) shall not apply to:

(1) The use of a mobile communications device for the sole purpose of communicating with an emergency response operator, hospital, physician's office or health clinic, or the city's police or fire department during an emergency situation;

(2) Law enforcement, public safety or police officers, emergency services officials, first aid, emergency medical technicians and personnel, or any fire safety officials when the specific use of a mobile communications device at issue occurred in the performance of duties arising out of and in the course of their employment as such.

(e) Any person violating this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$200.00 for the first offense and not to exceed \$500.00 for repeated offenses.

(Ord. No. 1868, § 1(app. A), 4-14-2008)

Amateur radio is certainly a "device by which the user communicates to another, or receives communication from another, by means of voice communications." When I realized that the West University Place ordinance also applies to amateur radio, I sent an e-mail to Dr. David Woolweaver, the ARRL Gulf Division Assistant Director. Many BVARC members have met Dr. Woolweaver. He came to the BVARC Field Day site in 2007 and to the Greater Houston Hamfest in both 2007 and 2008.

Dr. Woolwaver's response to me was "Several cities have recently passed similar ordinances. In many instances local hams made an effort to have amateur radio excluded, but failed. There appear to be some state legislators who feel that this sort of restriction should be done at the state level. It is rumored that an omnibus bill regulating cell phone use will be filed this coming year and it will standardize local ordinances. There is hope."

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Texas is concerned about the West University Place cell phone ordinance because the ordinance bans hands-free use of cell phones and opens the door to unacceptable police intrusions into the everyday lives of citizens in the form of unwarranted traffic stops. According to the ACLU of Texas website, Texas ACLU Executive Director Terri Burke has sated "we have to wonder how law enforcement will distinguish between a person speaking into a hands free device and a person who is talking to a small child in the back seat, or arguing with a talk radio commentator or singing along with a favorite song."

So, the next time you find yourself driving through West University Place when school zones are in effect, you may want to put down the microphone, turn the volume down on your mobile radio, and keep a sharp eye peeled for WUPD



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## THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

Late August through Late September 2008 check-ins

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

08/27/08, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, KC5JAR, K5LBU, N5CPA, KJ5SS, K5NDB, N5NOV, W5RH, WB5PNL, K5IZO, K5HFY, N5TGM, KB5YTA, W5RJA (Schulenburg), KD5YVQ, K5LOT, WS5H, KE5CDE, (19 Check Ins)

09/03/08, K5LKJ (NCS), KJ5SS, K5CEK, K5LOT, W5RCP (Putnam), K5NDB, N5CPA, K5LBU, N5AFV, KA5MEI, W5RJA (Schulenburg), WA5CYI, KC5HFM (Silsbee), K5ADA, WS5H, WA5FMK, K5LJ, WB5PNL (Beach City), KG5RQ. (19 Check Ins)

09/10/08, K5LKJ (NCS), KA5MEI, K5CEK, KJ5SS, K5LOT, K5NDB, WS5H, WA5CYI, W5RH, K5LJ, N5CPA, W5RJA (Schulenburg), K5CAM, KD5YVQ. (14 Check Ins)

09/17/08, K5LKJ (NCS), WA5CYI, KC5JAR, K5LJ, WS5H, W5RJA (Schulenburg), K5NDB, K5JWM, KJ5SS (T), N5CPA (T), K5CEK (T), AF5T (T), W5RH (T). (13 Check Ins)

09/24/08, K5LKJ (NCS), KJ5SS, K5NDB, N5CPA, W5RJA (Schulenburg), K5CEK (T), K5LJ, K5LBU, WS5H, WA5CYI. (10 Check Ins)

Thanks.  
Regards.  
John C. Whiteman  
K5LKJ

RESULTS OF THE September 9th  
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, September 9, 2008 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

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

Ten examination elements were administered during the evening to five applicants. One upgrade and one new General class licenses; and one upgrade and two new Amateur Extra class licenses were attained, with the total number of elements passed being 10. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

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

Steven T. Agee	- N5ZUA	- Amateur Extra
Raul Aldape	- KE5FAH	- General
Neil L. Gardner, IV	- {KE5WVQ}	- General
Grady F. Kelton, Jr.	- {AE5JK}	- Amateur Extra
Larry G. Orr, Sr.	- {AE5JL}	- Amateur Extra

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 .....



BVARC 2008 ANNUAL PICNIC & CAMPOUT

Picnic: Saturday, November 15th, 2008

Time: 12:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Location: Coushatta Recreation Ranch

Website: [www.coushatta.com](http://www.coushatta.com) See website for driving instructions

Off State Hwy. 36 Between Sealy and Bellville

Entry fee for picnic: None Food & beverage: bring your own

In the unlikely event that it rains, we retire to the meeting room.

Talk-In Frequency: 146.52

Sponsor: BVARC & Amateur Radio Campers

Campout: November 14, 15 & 16 Camping Fee: \$20.00 Sper night, 30 Amp, \$22.00 per night, 50 Amp

Sites have power, water and hookups.

Picnic Information: Call John Whiteman, K5LKJ, 281-530-0432

Thanks.

Regards, **K5LKJ** John C. Whiteman

## BVARC Historical Vignettes – Dr. Bill Ossenfort Award

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

The Dr. Bill Ossenfort Award was established by BVARC in 1988 to recognize the outstanding Volunteer Examiner (VE) each year. Dr. Bill Ossenfort was one of leaders of the BVARC VE team when it was formed in 1984, and he became a silent key (SK) in 1985. Dr. Ossenfort was also well known within the Houston running community, where as an orthopedic physician, he treated many Houston runners.

From July 1985 B-VARC Bulletin, Stu Lamkin WB5IGG Editor

### ANOTHER SILENT KEY

It grieves us to report that the ham radio, medical and academic communities lost an enthusiastic and contributing member when Bill Ossenfort, NG5C, became a Silent Key on June 10, 1985. And for many of us, it was the loss of an admired and loving friend.

Memorial Services were held for him June 12th in the Hammond Hall on the campus of the Rice University.

Bill is being and will continue to be sorely missed by all who knew him.

This award is presented to the person identified and selected as the outstanding Volunteer Examiner. To receive the award, the candidate must receive unanimous approval of the BVARC Board of Directors.

In honor of Dr. Bill's memory, Keith and Eva Huges, KA5F and KA5CYZ, presented a plaque on which the names of the award recipients were inscribed each year. The recipient held the plaque during the year of presentation and passed it on to the next one who is honored. Each recipient also received a smaller inscribed plaque as a permanent possession.

A list of the Dr. Bill Ossenfort Award recipients follows:

### Roster of Dr. Bill Ossenfort Award

1988 Harold Parker ND5F

1989 Stu Lamkin WB5IGG **SK**

1990 Carl Albrecht AA5JW

1991 Cass Germany KG5IT **SK**

1992 Irene Gordon N5AYX **SK**

1993 Henry Morrison W5RIY **SK**

1994 Don Schexnailder, AB5IV

1995 Louis House, KD5GM

2000 John Moore KK5NU

2001 Mark Winslet KM5WR

2002 Larry Jacobson K5LJ

2003 John Moore KK5NU

2005 George Ontko KM5VP

2007 Jeff Fussell KD5VGE

Any BVARC member may nominate someone for the Dr. Bill Ossenfort Award. Nominations for the Dr. Bill Ossenfort Award must be made in writing and submitted to the president of BVARC no later than the December membership meeting. These written recommendations should state the reasons why the nominee has been nominated. Although any member may submit a nomination, only the BVARC Board of Directors votes. The president polls each of the Board members, and the vote by the Board of Directors must be unanimous for the award to be conferred. If in any year no candidate receives unanimous approval of the Board, no award is made that year. The award is presented at the club's annual banquet in January.



## 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, 7:30 PM  
Sugar Land Community Center,  
226 Matlage Way

#### Board of Directors Meeting

First Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM  
Fuddruckers, just South of the Fountains  
Shopping Center on US 59 outbound..

#### 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

Saturday morning breakfasts  
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 BREAKFAST:

59 DINER, 7:30a.m., SW Freeway outbound service road, near Kirkwood.  
NEW YORK COFFEE & BAGEL SHOP, 7:30a.m., 9720 Hillcroft.

### THIRD FRIDAY DINNER: October 17, 2008, 7:00p.m. (Note new time)

PANDA GARDEN CHINESE RESTAURANT, 1043 Eldridge Road at  
Jesse Pirtle Blvd. in Sugar Land.

### OTHER HAM GROUPS:

#### WEDNESDAYS – WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH

LUBY'S CAFETERIA, 10:30a.m., Bellaire Blvd. ½ blk. E. of Hillcroft.

#### WEDNESDAYS – AMSAT & QRP GROUP

PAPPAS BARBECUE, 11:30A.M., SW Corner Westheimer & Gessner.

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## UPCOMING FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

Oct. 9-- Digital Delights (PSK and other digital modes)

Nov. 13 – Chili Supper, Elections -- W5RH Chili Coordinator / KK5NU  
Election Coordinator  
Ham Radio Videos – W5RH

Dec. 11 – Home Brew Night (with prizes) – W5RH coordinator

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## Hamfests

(within 200 miles of Houston)

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

### 4 Oct 2008

#### HamEXPO

Temple Amateur Radio Club  
Belton, TX  
Bell County Expo Center  
**Talk-In:** 147.34 & 442.775 (both PL 100)  
<http://www.beltonhamexpo.org>

### 8 Nov 2008

#### South Texas Amateur Radio Club

Hilltop Community Center  
[11425 Leopard Street](http://www.starc-corporischristi.org/)  
Corpus Christi, TX  
**Talk-In:** 146.82 (PL 107.2)  
<http://www.starc-corporischristi.org/>



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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**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](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**

**General Membership meeting), Digital Delights  
(Rescheduled from September's cancelled meeting)  
Thursday, October 9, 2008, 7:30 PM.**

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