



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

MARCH 2009

VOLUME 33 ISSUE 3

## BVARC GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST

The second largest Hamfest in Texas

Saturday, March 7.

Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds.

Gates open at 6AM for all, including tailgaters. Main hall opens at 8AM



Grand Prize: Yaesu FT-450 AT

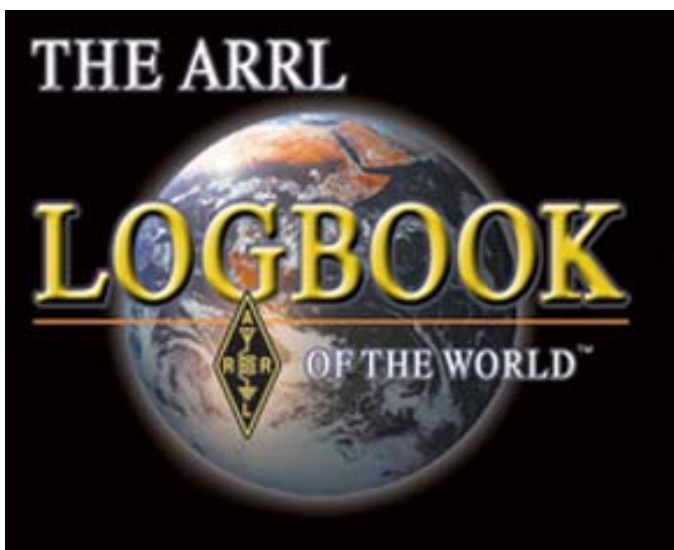
See the Hamfest flyer inside.

**BVARC Members: Have you signed up to volunteer for an hour or two?**

**Contact Rick Hiller, W5RH or John Chauvin, K5IZO**



**March General Membership Meeting**  
**March 12<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting**



BVARC invites you to attend the General Membership Meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Jim, N5DTT, will be giving a great presentation on the purpose and use of **LoTW – Logbook of The World**. Whether you are a Contester, DX'er or a wanabee, this informative program will bring you up to speed on the latest way to easily confirm all of that tasty DX you have been working.

Jim, a Ham since 1982, is a contester, DX'er and a self made **LoTW** expert. He has been diligent in placing all of the club contacts into the **LoTW** database, as a service to BVARC, for any of its' KK5W and W5DAP operations. These include the Museum Ships weekend on Pelican Island near Galveston. Come join us.

## February Meeting Report

The presentation consisted of a 3 part program:

1. The slide show by W5RH of "BVARC 2008 -- A Year in Review"
2. A Short technical talk by Dave Barber, K5NDB: "Turning post hurricane oooohhhs, into post hurricane aaaahhhs!- The Proper Care and Feeding of Portable Generators"
3. The Annual Awards, normally given out at the banquet, were presented.

The awards went to:

Dennis Dietrich, W5DDD, Dr. Bill Award

Larry Jacobson, K5LJ, Loop & Zepp Award

Bill Stone, WS5H, Order of the Key

A special award for Outstanding Service Recognition was given to Rick Hiller, W5RH.

See the President's Message for more details.



### RESULTS OF THE February 10<sup>th</sup> 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 10, 2009 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

#### MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

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

Four examination elements were administered during the evening to three applicants. One new General class license was attained, and one Element Three was passed; with the total number of elements passed being 3. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 75%.

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

T. Patrick Sloan, Sr. - - Element 3  
Robert S. Trahan, Jr. - {KE5ZFJ} - General

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 ....



8<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST



Hosting the

## ARRL South Texas Section Convention

Saturday, March 7, 2009 - 8 am - 2 pm

Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Rosenberg, Texas

*Streamlined General Admission Registration*

*Special Seller Parking and Easy Access*

*Special Seller Registration & Packet Pick-Up*

*On-Line Registration Info with Table Pre-selection*

*Free Tailgating with early buyer access*

**Featured Speaker – Dr. David Woolweaver, K5RAV**

**ARRL West Gulf Division Director**

- Over 18,000 sq. feet of indoor exhibit space!
- Plenty of Free Parking!
- Friday evening set-up.

### Programs:

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

### Raffle:

**GRAND PRIZE: YAESU FT-450-AT**



HF-6M w/ DSP and Automatic Antenna Tuner  
Other prizes awarded every 10 – 15 minutes!

### Displays & Information:

- Emergency Vehicles
- ARRL • ARES • AMSAT
- Live HF Station

### Ham License Testing:

Ham testing registration starts at 8 AM; Testing at 9 and 10:30 AM.

### Camping and Lodging:

Overnight camping sites with full hook-ups.

### On-Site Food Available

Breakfast: 7:00 until ?  
Lunch: 10:30 until ?  
On-going snacks, coffee, soft drinks

### 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!  
Children Under 14 Free!

Tables: All tables - \$10 pre-registration (choose tables on-line in advance)  
Electricity available to pre-registrants (no charge). On-site registrant elec. as available.  
Set-up available: Friday 4-8 PM, Saturday 6-8 AM

Tailgate: Free – special area in main venue area. Attendees will have early access to the tailgate 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: Kirk Kendrick, W5KMK, [w5kmk@arrl.net](mailto:w5kmk@arrl.net), 281-639-5088

## President's Message

*“WOW!!!”.....is what I have to say about the meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February. We had a total of 43 warm, wide awake folks. We also had several visitors and one granddaughter. Welcome to BVARC. Please return and be a part of our great club.*

We had a great program with Dave Barber telling us how to take care of the generators we each purchased, because of the wonderful storms that seem to enjoy visiting us here in the Gulf Coast region every few years. I need to check mine out. No need to have to replace it, if I take care of it and I would suggest that everyone do the same. Empty out the gas tank and run it till it is dry. Change the oil and store it for the next time.

Thank you, Rick, for the great slide show on what BVARC has done in the last year. Those who were not able to make the meeting sure missed some good photos of our members. Now, what's next for the club? Find out what you can do to help spread how great Ham Radio is, not only as a hobby, but as a true help in communications during any emergency.

It's time for the hamfest to be underway. John, K5IZO, and Rick, W5RH, have been working very hard to make this our best hamfest so far. So, if you would like to help out for an hour or two, please give them a call and they will point you to the correct team to help. I also want to thank Randy, AK5G, and Cam, K5CAM, for their hard work in getting the food, which is very important, as we seem to like to eat at a hamfest. Then we have Sid & Arnold, selling the tickets to get in -- thanks guys. Kirk, W5KMK, has been coordinating the table sales on the web. Pete, KD5QPX, is our traffic director and, without that important job, things sure would be in a mess. Bill, WS5H, thanks for all that you pick up in the odd jobs and making them go. Of course, John Moore, KK5NU, is the one that gets us more hams by doing the testing. Thanks to John and the BVARC and ECHO VEC groups. Oh yes, Allen, N5XZ, thanks for getting the speakers, which help to bring out the folks to hear them. To those who I have left off, I am sorry, but thanks for all the hard work guys and gals.

OK, now on to the DX. Let's see who is a DX HOG in working the new one “K5D” down at Desecheo Island. Here are the calls that I know that have worked them. Along with the number of times.

W5RH 1 40M SSB  
K5NDB 1 15M SSB  
K5ADA 2 20M SSB/17M SSB  
W5HFF 3 160CW/40SSB/17SSB  
K5IZO 6 160CW/80CW/40CW/80-40-15M SSB  
WS5H 9 30-15CW/80-40-20-17-15-12-10SSB  
K5LBU 12 80-40-30-20-17-15CW/80-40-20-17-12SSB  
N5XZ 12 40-30-20-17-15-12CW/40-20-17-15-12-10SSB  
K5LJ 17 160-80-40-30-20-17-15-12CW/160-80-40-20-17-15-12SSB/30-20RTTY

Well, it looks like it is time to retire and stay home, so we can work more DX.

I don't know who else has been in the chase for this rare DX spot, but please let us know if you did indeed work them. Wow, I am tied, as of the time I am writing this, with Allen, N5XZ, “Mr. DX Worker”..... and I only have a LogP at 45 feet and a small amp. I guess I need to see if they show up on 10 tonight when I get home from school and hope that I can get the 160 antenna working before they the island leave in 2 days.

See everyone at the Hamfest on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March and the meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

CU in the pileups.

Frosty  
K5LBU



## Public Service Events Coming Up

**Saturday, March 7, 2009**

### **Gator Ride**

[www.gatorride.org](http://www.gatorride.org)

Fifteen operators needed for the event. Contact Mike, N5VCX, at 713-826-6917 to volunteer or for more information.

**Sunday, March 08, 2009**

### **The Continental Airlines Cycling Classic**

[www.cocyclingclassic.com](http://www.cocyclingclassic.com)

Ten operators needed for the event. Contact Mike, N5VCX, at 713-826-6917 to volunteer or for more information.

**Saturday, March 14, 2009**

### **B-geO Magnolia Miles**

[www.magnoliamiles.org](http://www.magnoliamiles.org)

Twelve operators needed for the event. Operators meet at 4:30 am at Dennys in Tomball on FM2920 west of Hwy 290. Event and talk-in frequency will be on the 146.720 repeater (minus offset, 123.0 tone). Mobile radios are needed required for the event. Contact Mike, N5VCX, at 713-826-6917 to volunteer or for more information.

**Sunday, March 29, 2009**

### **Bluebonnet Express**

[www.northwestcyclingclub.com](http://www.northwestcyclingclub.com)

Twelve operators needed for the event. Operators meet at 4:30 am at Dennys on FM1960 north of Hwy 290 10. Event and talk-in frequency will be on the 444.075 repeater (plus offset, 103.5 tone). Mobile radios are needed required for the event. Contact Mike, N5VCX, at 713-826-6917 to volunteer or for more information.

**Saturday & Sunday, April 18 & 19, 2009**

### **BP MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Tour**

[www.ms150.org](http://www.ms150.org)

Over 100 operators are needed for this event. Positions available at breakpoints (contact your ARES EC) and mobile positions for entire weekend. For more information please contact Mike, N5VCX, at 713-826-6917 for more information or to volunteer.



### **THE BVARC Rag Chew Net**

February check-ins

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

01/28/09, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, KJ5SS, WS5H, N5CPA, AF5T, K5NDB, WA5CYI, K5LBU, K5LJ, W5UHZ (Beaumont), KC5JAR, W5RCP (Putnam), W5RH, W5TOM, WRHFF, NT5SM, WA5FMK, KD5YVQ. (19 Check-Ins)

02/04/09, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, N5CPA, KJ5SS, K5LJ, K5NDB, K5LBU, WA5CYI, WS5H, N5DTT, KB5JJW (Weimer), W5RH, AF5T, W5HFF, W5RJA (Schulenburg), (16 Check-Ins)

02/11/09, K5LKJ (NCS), KJ5SS, K5CEK, KC5JAR, WA5FMK, W5RJA (Schulenburg) (T), WA5CYI, K5HFF, K5LJ, W5TOM, WS5H, W5RCP (Putnam), K5NDB, N5DTT, N5CPA, K5LBU, AA5OA, W5RH, AF5T, KE5MBN (Midland). (20 Check-Ins)

02/18/09, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, N5CPA, KJ5SS (T), WS5H, KC5JAR, K5NDB, K5JWM, W5HFF, WA5CYI, W5RJA (Schulenburg), K5LJ, AA5OA, W5TOM, W5RH, KB5JJW (Weimer). (17 Check-Ins)

(T) = telephone check-inThanks.

Regards.

**K5LKJ**, John C. Whiteman



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George DiLetto KD0RW



## **BVARC Historical Vignettes – History of BVARC’s General Membership Meeting Date**

**Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian**

The recent proposal to consider changing the date of the BVARC general membership meeting seemed to generate a great deal of discussion among club members. As most all of you know, the general membership meeting is currently held on the second Thursday of each month unless an occasional conflict in scheduling at the Sugar Land Community Center forces the club to meet on another Thursday. And, of course in recent years the annual banquet in January is held on a weekend because of its special nature. In the early years of the club the banquet was held on the regular meeting night in January.

The very first club meetings may be considered to have been special situations. The two meetings held when BVARC was formed in September 1977 were on the third and fifth Fridays of the month. Because there was no club newsletter we don't know when the club met the first six months of its existence.

The first newsletter of the club (Volume 1, Number 1) was published in March 1978. A schedule published in the newsletter indicated that the club met twice a month on the first and fourth Mondays, a schedule we would consider to be somewhat unusual today.

The January-February 1979 newsletter (Volume 1, Jan/Feb 1979) announced that the February 1979 general membership meeting would be on the second Thursday. The meeting notice was in a poster format and took up the entire front page of the newsletter so that members would take notice of the change of meeting day. The new president for 1979 was Wade Eilers, WA5TEN, and on page 3 of the newsletter in a letter to all club members he announced that the club would meet on the second Thursday of the month for the entire year.

The second Thursday of the month remained the date of BVARC's general membership meeting for the next eighteen years until 1998. In late 1997 the outgoing president Gailen Marshall, N4SKR, applied to the Sugar Land Community Center for BVARC meet to there the second Thursday of each month the following year. He was informed that a number of second Thursdays were already taken by other organizations. The BVARC board discussed the issue and approved meeting the first Thursday because the Sugar Land Community Center could accommodate that request, and the club met on the first Thursday for the next three years. At the December 2000 BVARC board meeting a similar but opposite situation to what the club faced in 1997 developed. The meeting room at the Sugar Land Community Center had many of the first Thursdays in 2001 already taken but the second Thursdays remained were open. In February 2001 BVARC went back to meeting on the second Thursday of each month and that schedule has continued to the present time.

BVARC was organized in 1977 and will be 32 years old this year. For at least 27 of those years the club's general membership meeting has been held on the second Thursday of the month.



## 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:

11/17 - 19 - Mike, n5vcx  
11/24 - 18 - Sid, n5zkd  
12/1 - 20 - Cam, k5cam  
12/8 - 26 - Bill, ws5h  
12/15 - 27 - Sid, n5zkd

12/22 20 - Pete, kd5qpx  
12/29 19 - John, k5lkj  
1/5 - 28 - Cam, k5cam  
1/12 - 24 - Bill, ws5h  
1/19 - 18 - Sid, n5zkd

1/26 - 25 - Pete, kd5qpx  
2/2 - 31 - Cam, k5cam  
2/9 - 25 - Bill, ws5h  
2/16 - 11 - Sid, n5zkd  
2/23 - 22 - Pete, kd5qpx

**Control Ops needed for the Monday Night Net – [n5zkd@arrl.net](mailto:n5zkd@arrl.net)**



## FYBO – Freeze Your Butt Off

**QRP – Winter Field Day**

**HQRP -- W5MSQ**



By: Rick – W5RH

It was supposed to be cold. The colder it is, the more points per QSO. There were supposed to be Cycle 24 sunspots. The more sunspots, the more QSO's. But no such luck on either point. However, a good time was had by all at the recent Houston QRP Group outing at Tom Bass III County Park.

Portable antennas, battery power and small 5 watt rigs are the name of the game. Although CW reigns king in QRP, SSB and digital modes are also used.

The antenna farm consisted of a homebrew, loaded 80 meter vertical by W5RH; a telescopic 20 meter vertical by N5EM; W5ACM's famous 15 / 20 meter modified Cushcraft (manual) multi-band vertical and W5KMK's TW4040 "antenna in a bag". Yaesu FT-817's ruled the day, but a Kenwood 430 did sneak into the line up. Others participating were, Ken, N5EBD, Fred, WA5BUC and John, K5IZO.

The HQRP Group meets the second Saturday of each month, pending Ham Fests or outdoor portable opportunities (that's what it's all about). Red Cross building at 59 and Kirby at 9AM. Contact Rick – W5RH – [rhiller@sdicgm.com](mailto:rhiller@sdicgm.com)

More photos courtesy of Andy, W5ACM at: [http://www.w5acm.net/QRP\\_9207.html](http://www.w5acm.net/QRP_9207.html)



BVARC'ers – W5KMK, W5ACM and W5RH along with Ed, N5EM (standing in the middle) – FT-817's RULE!



Even 'Sir BVARC Newsletter Editor', John, K5IZO, got in on the action (or inaction), but enjoyed the Field Day atmosphere and great weather.

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**Congratulations to John Moore KK5NU for making the Volunteer Examiner Honor Roll, with 270 sessions, in the March 2009 issue of QST magazine page 45!!**

Thanks to John Denison, KD5YOU, for pointing this out.



Minutes of February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 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 7:00 PM on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 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.); Rick Hiller, W5RH (At-Large Dir.); Mike Hardwick, N5VCX (Past Pres.); Norma Stone, KE5NDN; Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; John Chauvin, K5IZO; Claude Sessions, K5HFY; David Barber, K5NDB; and David Bogart (N5EMG).

- 1) Minutes for the December 2008 meeting were approved as they appear in the January 2009 newsletter.
- 2) Treasurer's Report was presented to and approved by the Board.
- 3) New business:
  - a) Newsletter advertisements: No one has approached either HARS or EPO to collect for their ads in our newsletter. Board decided to wait until after the Hamfest to pursue payments.
  - b) River Oaks Stereo's Internet hosting offer: River Oaks made its offer just as BVARC became financially committed to current ISP. No board member has talked with Eddie Runner about his offer. Frost will go to River Oaks on 02/07/09.
  - c) Greater Houston Hamfest: March 7<sup>th</sup> is close at hand and club must focus on that activity above all others.
  - d) Sauermilch is to contact Dennis Harper and request that Dennis arrange the fire-fighter-training field for Field Day this year.
  - e) Arnold Knoche: effectively holding two board positions. Arnold is filling two positions, At-Large and Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer. The board needs to find a candidate to fill the At-Large position.
  - f) Future Hamfest Dates: Board decided to establish the first Saturday in March for the Greater Houston Hamfest for the next five years. Chauvin will create letter to vendors announcing this date selection for future events.
  - g) Hamfest participation: More people are needed for the Hamfest. An appeal will be made at the General Meeting.
  - h) Meeting Space: It appears that the county will not respond to our request for space. We will approach a club member (name withheld) for space.
  - i) Club Call: Stone and Barber requested the use of W5DPA and KK5W respectively, for club related use. Board approved application.
- 4) Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX



## 2009 Club Officers:

President:

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

Vice President: (Interim until voted)  
Rick Hiller  
[rhiller@sdicgm.com](mailto:rhiller@sdicgm.com)

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:  
Arnold Knocht, K5ADA  
[jakadaok@aol.com](mailto:jakadaok@aol.com)

Recording Secretary:  
Pete Sauermilch  
[kd5gpx@arrl.net](mailto:kd5gpx@arrl.net)

Board Member:  
David Barber, K5NDB  
[d\\_barber@att.net](mailto:d_barber@att.net)

Board Member:  
Arnold Knocht, K5ADA  
[jakadaok@aol.com](mailto:jakadaok@aol.com)

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, 7:00 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 Thursday dinner at 7:00 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

### 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: March 20, 2009, **7:00p.m.**

LUBY'S CAFETERIA, 10575 W. Airport Blvd. at Murphy Road in  
Stafford.

#### .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.



## Hamfests

(within 200 miles of Houston)

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

### 7 March 2009

#### **BVARC GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST**

Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds,  
[4310 Highway 36 South](#), Rosenberg, TX  
**Talk-In:** 146.940 minus (PL 167.9)  
<http://www.houstonhamfest.org>

### Meeting nights for the first half of 2009

Because Sugar Land will only reserve the Community Center for 6 months at a time, here is a list of the meeting nights through June. Note January there is no General Membership Meeting as we have the Annual Banquet in it's stead. Note that February had to be scheduled on the third Thursday. The others are on the second Thursday as usual.

12th March 2nd Thursday  
9th April 2nd Thursday  
14th May 2nd Thursday  
11th June 2nd Thursday.



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>  
Editor: John Chauvin, K5IZO, [k5izo@yahoo.com](mailto:k5izo@yahoo.com)  
Production Team: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, [k5cam@arri.net](mailto:k5cam@arri.net)  
Claude Sessions, K5HFY, [k5hfy@arri.net](mailto:k5hfy@arri.net)

**Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC)** was organized in 1977, 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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**VOLUME 33, ISSUE 3**

**MARCH 2009**

**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 7.  
General Membership Meeting – March 12. Logbook of the World**

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