



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

JULY 2009

VOLUME 33 ISSUE 7

The July 9th Meeting Presentation – Texas QSO Party

The July 9th General Membership meeting 7:30 PM will be a fun and informative one to attend. The presentation will be about the Texas QSO Party contest, held the last full weekend in September, the 26th and 27th. Chuck Sanders, NO5W, from the NARS club, coordinates that contest and he will be traveling from The Woodlands to tell us about all the fun and frolic to be had in operating that contest. So, let's show Chuck a good turn out for his hour long drive effort from northern Harris County.

NO5W 's presentation will cover the following:

The Texas QSO Party -- details of how to get involved, past activity, rare counties, rules, etc

"CQ/X" - GPS-Enabled Software for Mobile Contest Operation

Focus will be on practical aspects of the program like:

1. What hardware is needed to use the program?
2. What does the program provide that is useful for mobile operation in a QP?
3. What does the mobile/fixed user have to provide in terms of data?
4. How do you make a run/S&P QSO?

About Chuck – His main interest in radio is contesting and, mostly, he is an HF CW operator, but he also enjoys a good CW ragchew from time to time. Originally licensed in 1957, he was active during high school and semi-active during his studies of Electrical Engineering at LSU, but his license ran out. In 1984, while living in New Orleans, he relicensed and received NO5W. A good CW call, also the phonetics – "Need Only 5 Watts". So he took the hint from the FCC and did a lot of CW QRP in the 1980's. For a brief spell in the 1970's he was an EE professor at U of H, but most of his working career was spent as a software engineer for a major electric utility in the area of real-time generation control and economic dispatch. Since retiring in 2006, he has spent time developing ham radio contest Software, "CQ/X" being the main result. Those interested in learning more about it and the Texas QSO Party can check his website www.no5w.com or attend the July 9th meeting.

CU there! Rick – W5RH – VP BVARC



June Meeting Report

As this issue goes to press, there are no photos available from the June meeting. Jim Burrough (N5DTT) and Kirk Kendrick (KK2Z) gave a presentation about the plans for Field Day. Rick Hiller (W5RH) led a trivial pursuit game with prizes and Bill Stone (WS5H) gave a brief recap of the Museum Ship's Weekend BVARC activities.

Field Day 2009 – Hot but fun

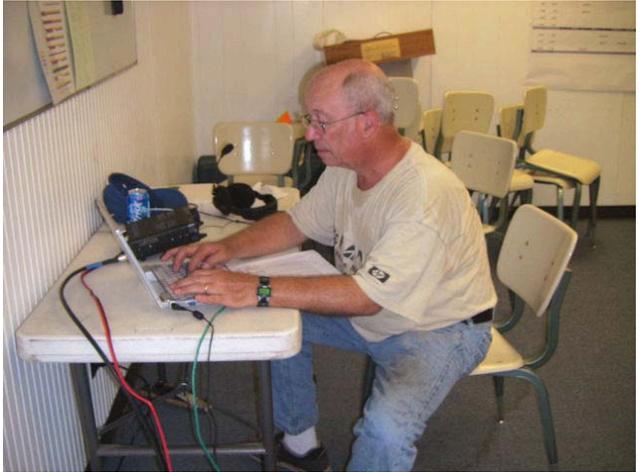
Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z and Jim Burrough, N5DTT were the Co-Chairmen of BVARC Field Day 2009 which was once again held at the Rosenberg Firemans' Training Center. 3 HF stations were set up in the air conditioned class room, a GOTA station was outside under a pavilion and the 6M and 10M stations were in the 4 story building.

As usual, all the positions were staffed when the BVARC started (1:15 PM). Later in the evening some stations became available and during the night between 0 and 2 positions were operating. Activity picked up again mid-morning on Sunday.

Food was excellent as usual. It was prepared by Randy Pollard, AK5G. Grilled hot dogs and hamburgers were served for lunch and fajitas were served as the main entrée Saturday evening.

The data reduction is still pending but we had around 460 CW QSOs and 400+ SSB QSOs, including the GOTA Qs. Look for a more detailed report in next month's issue and at the July general membership meeting.





President's Report

As this issue goes to press, the President's Report is not available. Look forward to hearing from Frosty in next month's issue.



Trivial Pursuit Game and the 4 Wrong Answers

By Rick Hiller – W5RH

At the June meeting, we played the 2nd annual Ham Radio Trivial Pursuit game. If you missed it, you missed some good fun and the chance to gain knowledge (including me, the host – hi). I asked a question about AM broadcast station ground radial systems – “What was the standard defined by the FCC?” I gave 4 possible answers and all 4 were wrong, even the one I meant to be correct. Here's why.

The particular answer choice, in question, was “120 radials of 1/2 wl each”. The correct answer should have been ‘120 radials of 1/4 wl each’. We found this out, as we had an AM broadcast engineer in the audience, Bob Stroupe, WB5JWN – lucky us. (Bob, later sent me the rules -- part 73.189 of the FCC rules governing AM Broadcast stations: §73.189 Minimum antenna heights or field strength requirements. Thanks, Bob.)

Why the wrong “correct” answer? During my research on ground radials, a few years back, I studied the 1937 Reference Paper by Brown, Lewis and Epstein of RCA. I read (and took to fact) that “120 at 1/2 wl” was the standard and had even written it down in my personal antenna information notebook. I appreciated the correction from Bob and have now researched the AM broadcast antenna information further. All very interesting, but for us Hams, there are much easier “ground/counterpoise systems” to deploy, as we are not under the constraints of the FCC rulings, thank goodness – our wallets appreciate it too.

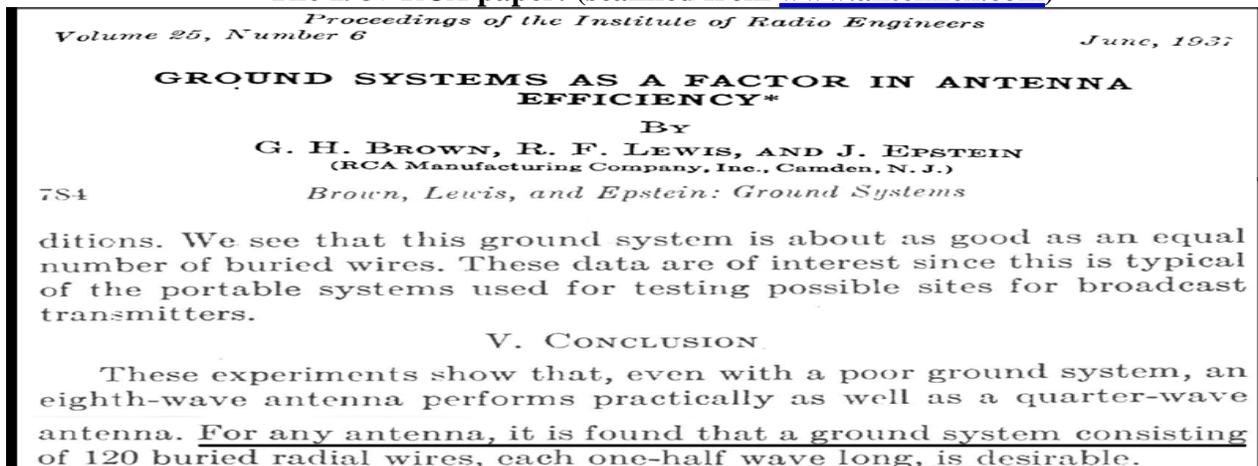
References: Below are 1) a quote from the FCC web site stating the correct “120 at 1/4 wl”; and 2) the Conclusion of the referenced 1937 RCA (Brown, Lewis, Epstein) paper stating, “**For any antenna, it is found that a ground system consisting of 120 buried radial wires, each one-half wave long, is desirable.**”

---- From the FCC Web Site 2009: (**bold and underline is mine**)

AM Ground System

*AM antenna systems consist in part of an underground ground system in addition to the vertical antenna. **A standard ground system consists of 120 copper radials, each 1/4 wavelength in length**, buried in the earth surrounding the central tower (at 3 degree intervals). These radials look like the spokes of a bicycle wheel, but they are not connected at the outer ends. Each radial is electrically connected to the other radials at the bottom of the base insulator beneath the vertical tower section.*

-----The 1937 RCA paper: (scanned from www.antennex.com)



I apologize for this error. I'm glad, though, that I learned something new about AM broadcast antennas. -- W5RH

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Meeting Nights back to our normal 2nd Thursday

At the June General Membership meeting, I announced that the meeting nights were not going to be on the second Thursday for the remainder of 2009. After a re-negotiation with the Sugar Land Community Center, we are back on for the 2nd Thursdays at the Community Center. Note, however, that the venue for the September meeting will be the Sugar Land Library on Eldridge, as the Community Center is completely booked. Stay tuned to the nets and the newsletter for updates. Thanks – Rick – W5RH -- VP

July	9	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Sugar Land Community Center, North Room
Aug	13	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Sugar Land Community Center, South Room
Sept	10	7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Ft Bend County Library, Sugar Land Branch 550 Eldridge Rd. (at Eldridge Rd. & Seventh St.)
Oct	8	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Sugar Land Community Center, South Room
Nov	12	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Sugar Land Community Center, North Room
Dec	10	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Sugar Land Community Center, North Room

Please Note: July, October, November, December; we have the Community Center 6:30-10:00. **August** we have Community Center **7:30** - 10:00! **September** we have the Library Meeting Room from 6:30 - **8:45!**



August Ice Cream Social

Ross, W5HFF, has stepped up to the plate and will be the contact point/coordinator for the August Ice Cream social. w5hff@yahoo.com So, please, contact Ross if you would like to bring ice cream, toppings, drinks, ice, etc. To all of you non-volunteering types out there in hiding, this is Ross's second in a row time to do this and he has done it at various times in the past, also. If you can't, or won't, bring anything, please come early and help set up or tear down. If you will volunteer to bring ice cream or drinks or help with setup, etc. THANK YOU! And THANK YOU, Ross! The Annual Ice Cream Social will have Jim and Kirk giving a complete review of the BVARC Field Day event set-up, operation and scoring, plus the usual slide show of pictures from various members and, hopefully, even a movie by Cam, W5CAM. So come on out enjoy some ice cream some socializing and hear about Field Day 2009. Rick – W5RH -- VP



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:

3/23 - 22 - Pete, kd5qpx	4/27 - 22 - Pete, kd5qpx	6/1 - 20 - Cam, k5cam
3/30 - 28 - Sid, n5zkd	5/4 - 23 - Cam, k5cam	6/8 - 28 - Bill & Norma, ws5h
4/6 - 29 - Cam, k5cam	5/11 - 22 - Bill, ws5h	6/15 - 19 - Sid, n5zkd
4/13 - 38 - Bill, ws5h (94)	5/18 - 23 - Sid, n5zkd	6/22 - 20 - Pete, kd5qpx
4/20 - 20 - Sid, n5zkd	5/25 - 22 - Pete, kd5qpx	6/29 - 24 - Sid, n5zkd

**RESULTS OF THE June 9th
Greater Houston Hamfest AMATEUR LICENSE EXAMINATION SESSION
By John Moore, KK5NU**

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, June 9, 2009 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Dennis Dietrich, W5DDD Jeff Fussell, KD5VGE
Larry Jacobson, K5LJ Randy Pollard, AK5G

Three examination elements were administered during the evening to three applicants. One new Technician class licenses and two upgrades to General class were attained; with the total number of elements passed being 3. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

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

Leonard L. Ferguson - KE5EVQ - General
James M. Rollyson - KF5BDX - General
Dan G. Taylor - {KF5BQY} - Technician

Many thanks to all the Team Members and Assistants who volunteer their valuable time and effort each month.

All of us at B-VARC again thank everyone at HCC Scarcella Technology Center for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

..... 73



THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

Late May & June check-ins

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

05/27/09, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, N5CPA, WS5H, W5TOM, W5RJA (Schulenburg), K5LOT, AF5T, KC5JAR, W5UHZ (Beaumont), W5RH, WA5CYI, K5LJ, W5HFF, AA5OA, K5NDB, W5JSU, N5ZKD, KA5MEI, WA5FMK. (20 Check-Ins)

06/03/09, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, WA5CYI, N5ZKD, WS5H, K5NDB, N5CPA, W5DTT, N5DTT, W5DPA (club station), KE5APJ(W5H), AF5T, K5LJ, KD5YVQ, W5RJA (Schulenburg), AA5OA, W5TOM, KA5MEI, WA5FWK, WA5VWB, W5JSU, W5HFF, KA5BKG (Brenham), KB5JJW (Weimer). (23 Check-Ins)

06/10/09, K5LKJ (NCS), KJ5SS, K5CEK, K5Hfy, WS5H, K5NDB, K5LJ, AA5OA, W5TOM, W5UHZ (Beaumont), W5RJA (Schulenburg), K5JWM, N5ZKD, AF5T, WA5FMK, N5CPA, KB5JJW (Weimer), AF5TF (Mulla, FL), KA5MEI, WA5CYI. (20 Check-Ins)

06/17/09, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, K5LOT, WS5H, N5CPA, AF5T, K5LJ, K5NDB, W5RJA (Schulenburg), K5UAO (Alexandria, LA), W5UHZ (Beaumont), KB5LKE, W5RH, K5ADA (T), KA5BKG (Brenham), KB5JJW (Weimer), WD5FDU. (17 Check-Ins)

06/24/09, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, K5LOT, N5CPA, W5TOM, AF5T, W5RJA (Schulenburg), W5HFF (M), KB5LKE, K5NDB, W5RH. (17 Check-Ins)

Regards._

(M) = mobile (P) = Portable (R) = Relay (T) = telephone check-in

Thanks. Regards. **K5LKJ**

Public Service Events Coming Up

Katy Flatland Century 2009; 7 am July 19, 2009; Katy, Texas

Fifteen ham operators needed for event communications. Operators will meet at 4:30 am at Denny's on Fry Road north of Interstate 10 for event information, tee shirts and maps.

Talk-in and event will be on the 444.075, plus offset, 103.5 tone, repeater. If you have any questions about working the event, please feel free to give me a call.

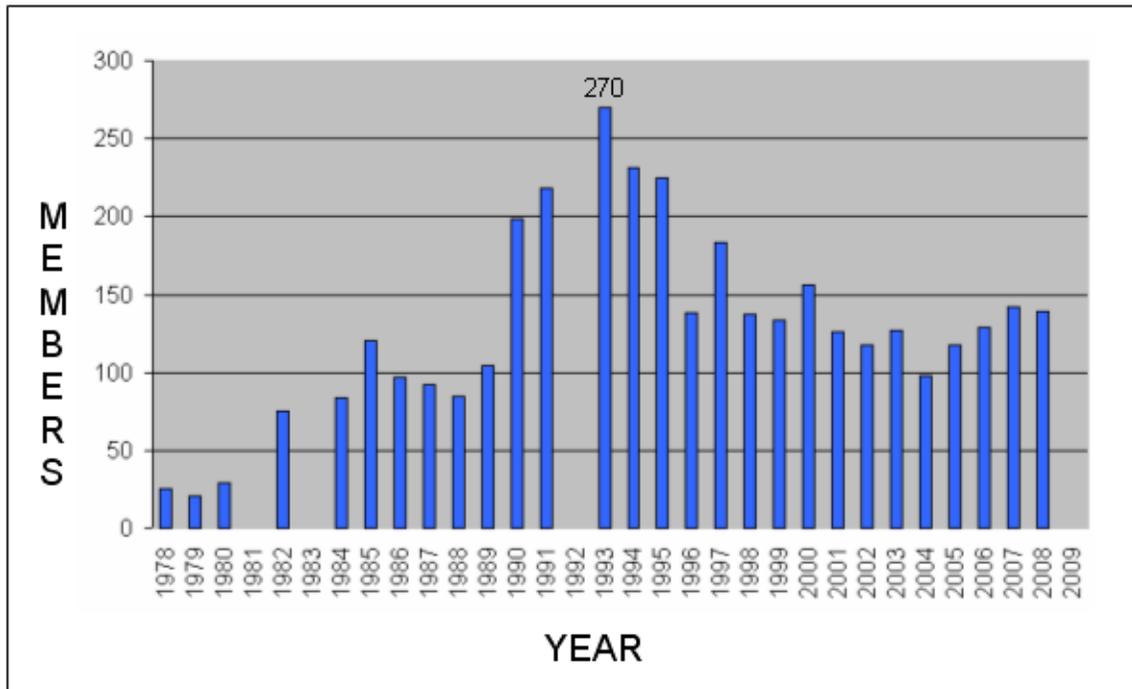
Mike Hardwick, 713-826-6917



BVARC Historical Vignettes – Fluctuations in BVARC Membership Through Time **Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian**

Most of you know that I spend a fair amount of time reading BVARC newsletters from past years. These newsletters provide a written record of the history of our club. It occurred to me one day that it would be interesting to examine how the size of BVARC changed through the years. The past newsletters and rosters in my possession contain enough data regarding the number of members in the club to provide us with an overview of how BVARC has changed with regard to the size of membership over the years.

Even though I was not able to find membership totals for every year sufficient data were available to produce a graph that shows how BVARC membership has fluctuated over the years. For some years I only had access to a roster from early in the year and the number of members shown on the graph for that year is probably lower than it actually was.



The graph may be divided into four segments representing different portions of the club history. The club was founded in 1977, and from 1978 through 1981 the club had approximately 25 members. This was the period where the club came together initially, worked out organizational details, and built a base on which it could grow.

The second phase occurred from 1982 through 1989. The club grew and membership stabilized between 75 and 100 members. The club was now large enough that its success was pretty well guaranteed.

The period from 1990 through 1997 is what some have called the golden years of the club. Club membership peaked at 270 members. It was not just BVARC that was booming, but all kinds of clubs and organizations enjoyed success during this time period.

The time period from 1998 through the present is where we are today. The club membership has stabilized at approximately 120 to 140 members. The graph suggests that there has been no significant change in the size of club membership since 1998. The club appears to be healthy and is holding its own in terms of membership.

I would like to acknowledge Sam Wilson and Claude Sessions for providing me with copies of BVARC rosters from past years. These rosters have been added to my collection of BVARC documents from the past. If anyone in the club has newsletters, rosters, or similar documents from BVARC's past I would greatly appreciate receiving copies of them.



Minutes of June 4th, 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 of June 4th, 2009 at Dimassi's Mediterranean Buffet, 12350 Southwest Freeway, Sugar Land, TX.

Attending were: Charles Frost, K5LBU; (Pres.); Arnold Knoche, K5ADA (Treas./Cor. Sec.); Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.); David Barber, K5NDB, (At-Large Dir.); Ross Lawler, W5HFF (At-Large Dir.); Norma Stone, KE5NDN; Bill Stone, WS5H.

- 1) Minutes for the May 2009 meeting were approved as they appear in the May 2009 newsletter.
- 2) Treasurer's Report was presented to and approved by the Board.
- 3) Old Business: Field Day:
 - a) Board voted to purchase an 80M filter to replace the missing filter from the set the club owns.
 - b) Board voted to purchase a second set of filters for field day and other club activities. (Post meeting action: After placing order for filter set, club was notified that delivery time would be several months. Through a series of emails, board voted to let current order stand and make a second purchase of a less expensive set of filters that should arrive for field day.)
 - c) Board voted to purchase two wire antennas. Frost is to select antenna.
- 4) New business: General Meeting day and location: Frost informed board that he was unable to secure a contiguous set of reservations for the Sugar Land Community Center on the SECOND THURSDAY for the next six months. As an alternative he secured a contiguous set of reservations for the THIRD THURSDAY. (Post meeting action: Additional negotiations with Sugar Land secured reservations with several different starting times at the Community Center, except September when the building is unavailable.)
- 5) Schedule:
 - a) July 9th: Community Center, North Room; Texas QSO Party (reserved 6:30PM-10:00PM)
 - b) August 13th: Community Center, South Room; Ice Cream Social (reserved 7:30PM-10:00PM)
 - c) September 10th: To Be Determined
 - d) October 8th: Community Center, South Room; (reserved 6:30PM-10:00PM)
 - e) November 12th: Community Center, North Room; (reserved 6:30PM-10:00PM)
 - f) December 10th: Community Center, North Room; (reserved 6:30PM-10:00PM)
- 6) Other Business:

Board appointed Bill Stone to the newly created position, Chairman BVARC Museum Ship Coordinator.
- 7) Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX



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



Museum Ship's Weekend Report

As this issue goes to press, the article on the Museum Ship's Weekend is not available. The editor (K5IZO) was there and had a good time. Look for next month's newsletter for more information on what happened. Also, Bill Stone (WS5H) will be doing the featured presentation at the September general membership meeting on Special Events where he will also have more information on the event.

2009 Club Officers:

President:

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

Vice President: (Interim until voted)

Rick Hiller
rhiller@sdicgm.com

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:

Arnold Knoche, K5ADA
jakadaok@aol.com

Recording Secretary:

Pete Sauermlch
kd5qpx@arrl.net

Board Member:

David Barber, K5NDB
d_barber@att.net

Board Member:

Ross Lawler, W5HFF
w5hff@yahoo.com

At Large Board Member

(Past President):
Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
n5vcx@worldnet.att.net

Club Happenings:

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

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

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFASTS:

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

THIRD FRIDAY DINNER: July 17, 2009, 7:00p.m.

HICKORY BARN BARBECUE, 11534 Wilcrest, ½ block S. of W. Bellfort
in Houston.

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>

Tidelands Amateur Radio Society

11 Jul 2009

Doyle Convention Center. [2010 5th Avenue North](#)
Texas City, TX

<http://www.tidelands.org>

Talk-In: 147.140 (PL 167.9) or 442.025 (PL 103.5)

Texas State Convention (Austin Summerfest)

Austin ARC & Texas VHF FM Society

7-8 Aug 2009

Austin Airport Marriott South

[4415 South IH-35](#)

Austin, TX

<http://www.austinsummerfest.org>

Talk-In: 146.34/.94 (no tone)

West Central Louisiana Amateur Radio Club, 34th Annual Hamfest

8 Aug 2009

First United Methodist Church

[202 North 5th Street](#)

Leesville, LA

<http://www.wclarc.com>

Talk-In: 145.310 -600 (PL 203.5) & 146.52 Simplex



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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 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 or see the BVARC website: www.bvarc.org

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JULY 2009

**BRAZOS VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

General Membership Meeting – Thursday, July 9.

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