



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

AUGUST 2009

VOLUME 33 ISSUE 8

## General Membership meeting -- August 13<sup>th</sup>

### The Annual BVARC Ice Cream Social

Come join us for the ice cream event of the year....and none too soon, with this weather we have been having. It is Summer! During the eating of the cool and creamy ice cream, Jim, N5DTT, and Kirk, KK2Z, our Field Day Coordinators, will present a full report and review of the BVARC Field Day Activities. There will also be a Field Day slide show (by W5RH) of pictures taken by various members and a video by Cam, W5CAM. Ross, W5HFF, is the contact point/coordinator for the Ice Cream social. So, please, contact Ross at [w5hff@yahoo.com](mailto:w5hff@yahoo.com) if you would like to bring ice cream, toppings, drinks, ice, etc. Editor's Note: Submitted by Rick Hiller, W5RH.



## July Meeting Report

Chuck Sanders, NO5W, was the featured speaker. The subject was the Texas QSO Party. Chuck is with NARS who coordinates that contest. The presentation was broken up into two parts: 1) details on the contest itself and 2) on some software which he developed specifically for this event. The Texas QSO Party is SCHEDULED ANNUALLY ON SATURDAY OF THE LAST FULL WEEKEND IN SEPTEMBER. The website is at: <http://txqp.net>. Many BVARC members expressed interest and we expect to have a significant participation in this year's event. BVARC has agreed to sponsor 2 of the plaques that will be awarded.



Chuck Sanders, NO5W, featured speaker



A pre-meeting Field Day de-briefing gathering.

## President's Report

Editor's Note: This article did not arrive in time to be included in last month's newsletter so some of the content might seem dated. Frosty said to go ahead and publish it anyway. It is being published as submitted without editing.

Greetings to the BVARC members and friends,

Well it is time to put some wonderful words on paper once more. I hope everyone that worked in support of Field Day has started to recover now. I am sitting at a Holiday Inn in Germany after having a great time at the great ham fest in Friedrichshafen. Am on the way to FrankFurt to go home. I will send some photos for the next news letter.

Now to the upsetting part to some folks. The meet dates are set, yes as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. But since we are allowed to use the meeting place free we are at the mercy of the Sugar Land Park dept. and with them making the rules where you can only request the date that you want 6 months in advance and depending who is there when the request is made we are at their mercy. Therefore I would like to have your input as members as to when we should meet. I think we should move the time to 7PM as most of the members do work on Friday and when the meeting goes late it makes for a long day at work on Friday. I would also like to hear from the members as to what day of the month would be best for you. As most know that we did a straw vote several months ago and the majority voted that they would prefer to meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday. So think about it as in the next newsletter I will have a ballot printed and you can fill it out and bring it to the meeting. It makes me no difference as to what rumors are started about me wanting to change the date so that I can go to the TDXS meeting. If I want to go to TDXS meetings I will go. I miss meetings because of being out of town and or other reasons.



### **BVARC Historical Vignettes – The Mystery of BVARC's Sister Club**

**Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian**

Almost everybody enjoys a mystery and in my research of club documents I have found a mystery from the early years of BVARC.

The February 1981 club newsletter reported that BVARC president Richard Shankle, N5KV, had discussed "B-VARC's "sister" club activities" at the January 1981 general membership meeting. No details of this discussion were given.

The only other mention of a sister club I could find in club records was that in the September 1981 club newsletter BVARC vice president Dick Bigelow, WD5CTQ, reported to the club that BVARC's "sister club, Robbinsdale Suburban Radio Club in suburban Minneapolis had ceased to function as an active group, primarily because of a lack of cohesive club activities on a continuing basis." The mystery is how did BVARC get a sister club, and when. The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club was only four years old in 1981.

We have all heard of cities having sister cities. Occasionally in the local news we hear about one of Houston's sister cities. A group called Sister Cities International arranges sister cities. According to the Sister Cities International website, Houston has 17 sister cities. After learning about this, I thought perhaps the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) might have arranged sister amateur radio clubs. A search of the ARRL website failed to turn up any information about sister amateur radio clubs.

I spoke with a number of BVARC members and former BVARC members about a sister club and no one I spoke with recalls anything about a sister club. A search on the Internet for the Robbinsdale Suburban Radio Club also failed to shed any light on the mystery. Perhaps someone who reads this knows something about BVARC's sister club and will come forward with further information regarding this club mystery.

# Museum Ship Weekend 2009 Review

June 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 2009

As of 7-22-09 we have received and sent back out 113 QSL cards with, as I am told, more in the club P.O. Box. We show 21 different ships contacted and a total of 586 contacts. During the 48 hr event, we were ON THE AIR 20 HRS. Bands worked were 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 10, and v/u 2meter/UHF Satellite FM. The HOT 2 BANDS were 20 & 17.

Sat. & Sun.

Station 1: Antennas used for the Event are as follows - In the Park Primary antenna was a Hustler BTV-6 ground mount "worm burner" vertical. This was used, as the USS STEWART was not at the time of the Event ready to board by the Public due to IKE damage.

Station 2: Saturday - the antenna was an OUTBACK mobile setup on Ross W5HFF's car and station set up at the picnic table.

Sunday - for 1 hr K5EWJ "Cookie" ran an MFJ-2016 and set up SSB in his mobile.

Station 3: Sat. & Sun. - USS Sub Cavalla Radio room & ship longwire antenna, mainly used for CW operations. We found a short in the longwire and could not run more than 50 watts and we will need to put together a team to fix this problem before the Ship Event in 2010.

Some On The Air Statistics:

UTC 000-0100	FRI.	1 hr	1 Station	SSB
	SAT.	13 hrs	3 Stations	2 SSB 1 CW
	SUN.	6 hrs	2 Stations	1 SSB 1 CW & SSB

**586 Contacts / 20 hrs operating ( Park OP's Shut Down At Dark)**  
**(How does this compare to Field Day?)**

**Key personal in attendance were:**

John Mc Michael, USN. Ret. - Curator

Bill	WS5H	Operations XO-SSB Ops
Norma	KE5NDN	Setup / PLANNING
Dwayne	KB5YTA	Main Setup & SSB Ops
Darrell	KC5JAR	Main Setup / Generator / SSB Ops
David	K5NDB	Logistics / Support, Setup & Supply
Cookie	K5EWJ	CW Ops / Sub Troubleshooter
Donna	KE5WQU	SSB Ops
Ross	W5HFF	Sat. #2 Station Setup & SSB Ops
Allen	N5AFV	Primary AMSAT Ops
Andrew	KE5GDB	AMSAT Setup / Ops
Louis	KD5GM	AMSAT Ops / Generator Support
Theresa	KE5MUX	Support
Ann-Marie Jones (LOL)		Support
Howard	KE5APJ	Motel accomadations / Support
Dave	AF5T	Motel accomadations / Support
John	K5IZO	CW Ops / SSB Ops
David	KD7THJ	Support / Event Breakdown

If you were at the event and you are not on the list let Bill (WS5H) know. [dragntow@WT.NET](mailto:dragntow@WT.NET)

The 21

Here is a list of Ships in the Log

\*= QSL Confirmed As of 7-22-09

W2RM	USS Sub BACUNA *
NA5DV	USS BB TEXAS
W8CJO	SS KEEWATIN *
N14BK	USS NC *
W4KID	USS KIDD
K8HLM	LS HURON *
W6RO	HMS QUEEN MARY *
NJ2BB	USS NJ
KOUSA	USS HAZARD
NJ6VT	USS Sub POMPANITO *
W7BU	LS COLUMBIA *

NJ4DU	USS Sub C ALAMADORE
W4A	USS ALABAMA
W4A	USS Sub DRUM
WW2IND	INDY MEMORIAL *
N4WIS	USS WISCONSON
KD8LGU	LST 393 *
N8SUB	USS SILVERSIDES Sub *
WW2LST	LST 325
K6YVM	SS RED OAK VICTORY *
NB6GC	USS HORNETT

If you have pictures of the event and have not given a copy of them to the Club, please do so as we need to send them in to the Event Sponsor, NJ2BB, for our Participation Certificate on the USS Stewart & USS Cavalla using Club Call KK5W.

We will also send in for the 15+ ship contact award. The cut off date is SEPT 30 so if you made contacts with ships from home get those QSL's sent out.

FROM ALL OF US ON THE KK5W MSWE TEAM 73

Submitted by Norma KE5NDN and Bill WS5H



# RESULTS OF THE JULY 14<sup>th</sup> BVARC AMATAUR LICENSE EXAMINATION SESSION

By John Moore, KK5NU

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, July 14, 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  
Robert Trahan, KE5ZPJ

Nine examination elements were administered during the evening to seven applicants. Four new Technician class licenses, two upgrades to General class, and one Amateur Extra class were attained; with the total number of elements passed being 8. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 89%.

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

Randall C. Edens	- {KF5CEW}	- Technician
Martin Hyde	- {AE5NP}	- Amateur Extra
David E. McClure	- {KF5CEX}	- Technician
Mark A. Moorehead	- {KF5CEY}	- Technician
Daryel A. Nance	- K5JNQ	- General
Christian O. Sauder	- {KF5CEZ}	- Technician
Peter N. Slater	- KF5BMZ	- 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 .....



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## THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

July check-ins

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

07/01/09, K5LKJ (NCS), K5LBU, K5NDB, N5CPA, K5CEK (R), KJ5SS (R), K5HFF, K5LJ, N5AFV, K5JWM, WS5H, W5RJA (Schulenburg), KA5BKG (Brenham), AF5T, KD5YVQ, W5RH, K5HFF, KB5JJW (Weimer), WA5CYI, KB5VTB, WB5VYR (21 Check-Ins)

07/08/09, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TOM, W5RH, K5CEK, K5LOT, KJ5SS (R), K5NDB, N5CPA, WS5H, K5LJ, WA5CYI, W5RJA (Schulenburg), AA5OA, W5UHZ (Beaumont), AF5T, KB5JJW (Weimer), KC5JAR. (17 Check-Ins)

07/15/09, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, W5TOM, AF5T, N5CPA, K5LOT, WA5FMK, W5RJA (Schulenburg), WA5VWB, K5LJ, W5UHZ (Beaumont), K5SEE, N5AFV, WA5CYI, WS5H, K5NDB, W5RH, KB5JJW (Weimer), KA5BKG (Brenham), (19 Check-Ins)

07/22/09, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, W5TOM, AF5T, K5NDB, N5CPA, W5RH, K5LJ, WS5H, WA5CYI. (10 Check-Ins)

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

Thanks.

Regards.

**K5LKJ**, John C. Whiteman



## UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Annual elections take place at the November General Membership Meeting. Any member in good standing can be nominated from the floor that evening (special restrictions on the President). However BVARC has a nominating committee who is charged with the task of finding at least one member to run for each of the positions. Think about if you want to run for any position or if you want the nominating committee to make the nomination. More details will be given in the next edition of the newsletter.



## PRINTING PROBLEM WITH THE LAST ISSUE – A THANKS TO THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Most of you received an issue of the newsletter last month that had “blank” pages. These pages were not “blank” per se, but rather this was a printing error. Neither the editor nor the production team had anything to do with this. Apparently while the issue was being printed, the first page was followed by a blank page and thus page 2 wound up being on page 3. This also resulted in page 10 being on page 11 and the last page blank. This was not detected until after the assembly team was at home. They had to remove the last page and reverse it and restape it, so the mailing page would be on the outside. Fortunately it was a 10 page issue, so the extra sheet did not bump it to the 2 oz. postage rate. When you see a production team member (Cam or Claude), give them your thanks.

## Public Service Events Coming Up

As this issue goes to press, there is no report available. Look for Cam's club e-mails and in next month's newsletter.



### **Minutes of July 2<sup>nd</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 7:06 PM on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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.); Rick Hiller, W5RH (VP); Mike Hardwick, N5VCX (Past Pres.); Ross Lawler, W5HFF (At-Large Dir.); Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; John Chauvin, K5IZO; Jim Burrough N5DTT.

- 1) Minutes for the June 2009 meeting were approved as distributed via. email to the board.
- 2) Treasurer's Report was presented to and approved by the Board.
- 3) Old Business:
  - a) General Membership Meetings: Continued negotiations with the Sugar Land Parks and Recreation Department secured most of the usual meeting dates for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. The only exceptions are September which is to be at the Sugar Land Branch of the Fort Bend County Library. Complete meeting information is listed under the Schedule topic.
  - b) Awards Banquet: Saltgrass Steak House is considered too small for the January banquet. Texas Land and Cattle would not accept reservations for January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010 because they were already booked. Board voted to explore the dates of January 7<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> for the banquet.
  - c) July Guest Speaker: Chuck Sanders, NO5W, is our July meeting presenter on the Texas QSO Party. He is traveling from The Woodlands. Hiller is taking him to dinner at the Panda Garden Restaurant at Eldridge and Jess Pirtle. Hiller encourages any other members interested to join them.
  - d) Field Day: Burrough presented summary of Field Day activities. CW QSOs, 459; SSB QSOs, 379; GOTA QSOs not recorded by secretary at meeting; Bonus Points approximately 500. Expected number of minimum total event points to be claimed, 3095.
- 4) New business: None
- 5) Schedule:
  - a) Texas QSP Party, Chuck Sanders, NO5W:

July	9	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Sugar Land Community Center, North Room
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  - b) Ice Cream Social, Ross Lawler Coordinator. Board requests that persons volunteer to help Ross.

Aug	13	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Sugar Land Community Center, South Room
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  - c) Bill Stone, WS5H: Special Event Planning and The Museum Ship Weekend.

Sept	10	7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Ft Bend County Library, Sugar Land Branch 550 Eldridge Rd. (at Eldridge Rd. & Seventh St.)
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  - d) To Be Determined

Oct	8	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Sugar Land Community Center, South Room
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  - e) Chile Supper and elections:

Nov	12	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Sugar Land Community Center, North Room
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  - f) Home Brew Night: This year, equipment brought to home brew must have been constructed during the previous 12 months.

Dec	10	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Sugar Land Community Center, North Room
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- 6) Other Business: None
- 7) Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX

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



## QST Article Search from the ARRL

If you are like me and don't pay much attention to the ARRL home web page, you probably have not noticed that they have added a great feature – Searchable QST magazines from 1915 thru 2005. Most QST pages and articles are available for download and viewing. QEX, Ham Radio and NCJ indexes can also be searched, but just article references will be brought up showing topic title and which issue that it appeared. (Note: QST material newer than 2005 is **not** available for download, at this time, and QEX, NCJ and Ham Radio material is **not** available for download at all)

If you are an ARRL member go to the home page [www.arrrl.org](http://www.arrrl.org) and then go to “**Members Only**” then “**QST Archives Search**”. It will come up with “**ARRL Periodicals Archive and Search**” page. Put in any of the fields and hit the “**Search the Index**” button at the bottom.

For example, if you put in a “year” and a “month” and choose “QST”, you will get the full issue. If you put in just “Delta Loops” and “QST” you will get all pages that have the words “delta loops” from 1915 thru 2005. You can search and view regular columns too, like Hands On Radio or Technical Correspondence, for example.

Have fun with this and be forewarned, it can be a real “time waster” -- HI. If you do find something from Ham Radio magazine that you would like, I have all 247 issues of Ham Radio in actual magazines and on a DVD, and I would be pleased to provide you a copy of what you need.

Enjoy....Rick – W5RH rhiller@sdicgm.com



## 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:

4/13 - 38 - Bill, ws5h (94)  
4/20 - 20 - Sid, n5zkd  
4/27 - 22 - Pete, kd5qpx  
5/4 - 23 - Cam, k5cam  
5/11 - 22 - Bill, ws5h

5/18 - 23 - Sid, n5zkd  
5/25 - 22 - Pete, kd5qpx  
6/1 - 20 - Cam, k5cam  
6/8 - 28 - Bill & Norma, ws5h  
6/15 - 19 - Sid, n5zkd

6/22 - 20 - Pete, kd5qpx  
6/29 - 24 - Sid, n5zkd  
7/6 - 23 - Cam, k5cam  
7/13 - 29 - Randy, aa5oa  
7/20 - 17 - Cam, k5cam



## 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 Knoche, K5ADA

[jakadaok@aol.com](mailto:jakadaok@aol.com)

Recording Secretary:

Pete Sauermilch

[kd5qpx@arrl.net](mailto:kd5qpx@arrl.net)

Board Member:

David Barber, K5NDB

[d\\_barber@att.net](mailto:d_barber@att.net)

Board Member:

Ross Lawler, W5HFF

[w5hff@yahoo.com](mailto:w5hff@yahoo.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

### 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: August 21, 2009, 7:00p.m.

CASA OLE' MEXICAN RESTAURANT, 10421 S. Post Oak Rd., on east side 1 block S. of W. Bellfort.

### 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>

### **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](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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**AUGUST 2009**

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

**FIRST CLASS POSTAGE**

**Ice Cream Social & General Membership Meeting – Thursday, August 13.**

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