



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

DECEMBER 2009

VOLUME 33 ISSUE 12

Homebrew Brew Night - December Meeting

December 10th

Bring out your latest creation for the annual Home Brew Night. Any Ham Radio or Electronics project is welcome, hardware, software, antenna concepts, models, etc. Anything that you have done THIS YEAR! A bit of a change in the rules.....no project that has appeared at other Home Brew Nights will be accepted for the prize drawings – unless you have worked on it this year to change or improve it. We all want to see what you have done THIS YEAR! Prizes will be awarded. We also need folks to turn out and enjoy the festivities. See you on December 10th at 7:30.



November General Membership Meeting

The Chili Supper and the Annual Elections were the highlight of the November General Membership Meeting. As usual, there were plenty chili and “fixin’s” which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Charles “Frosty” Frost, K5LBU did not rerun for President. The club thanks him for his services. Rick Hiller, W5RH was elected as President. Pete Sauermilch, KD5QPX and Ross Lawler, W5HFF were reelected as Recording Secretary and Board Member respectively.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to start off saying a very big thanks to all the members of BVARC for allowing me to serve you as the president for the last 2 years.

I know that I have missed lots of meetings due to the fact that I enjoy traveling to Southern Africa and being the DX station. In fact I will be doing more of that starting in June of 2010 as I will retire from my teaching job.

I would like to thank Rick for stepping up and becoming our new leader. Rick will be doing a very good job in this role as president of BVARC.

Now it would be just outstanding if someone would step up and fill his place as the VP. I am sure that the next VP is sitting out there in one of the chairs during our meeting with many ideas of how to help BVARC growing.

As far as DX is concerned, I hope that everyone that could, did work some of the good DX that was on the air this last month. I know that there are a few CW operators in the club and hope you worked some in the CQCW contest. Or were you too full of Turkey to move? I spent my week off from school visiting with several hams in Rome, Italy. Along with the owner of the company that makes the Expert 1K-FA amplifier that I have. We also were working on our planning of a DXpedition to Botswana in 2010.

There are several good contests coming up in the next month, the first one is December the 5th and 6th for 160 meters. So get on the air and work some folks.

Well almost time for my students to start arriving for class so I will say thanks once more and see you at the next meeting which is home brew night. That is not the home brew that you drink but something you have built with your own 2 hands.

73 and CUL
Charles F. Frost
FROSTY K5LBU



Annual BVARC Service Awards

Please make your nominations for the BVARC Service awards to any board member before the December meeting. Not sure what the awards are? Check out the BVARC web site at www.bvarc.org and click on "BVARC Award Info" or "Who is BVARC" to find out who has won these awards over the years. Board members are listed in the newsletter or on the web site.



BVARC Annual Banquet – Saturday, January 16, 2010

Texas Land and Cattle restaurant in the Fountains on Hwy 59 in Stafford will be the venue for the BVARC Annual Banquet. We welcome all members and their guests for a fun filled social evening. Cost for each attending member is \$20 (plus cash bar), one guest is also invited per member at the \$20 plus cash bar subsidized meal rate. Any non-members and those guests beyond the 1 per member will be charged \$30.77. See the menu below for details on the food available.

Please RSVP before January 10, 2010 to Arnold K5ADA jakadaok@aol.com or Rick W5RH rhiller@sdicgm.com All member and guest meal fees must be paid to BVARC before entering the banquet. These fees can be paid at the December meeting, by mail (received by January 10th) or at the door the night of the event.

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club - Annual Banquet
Saturday -- January 16, 2010 6:30 PM
Texas Land & Cattle Steak House - Cattlebaron Room
12710 Southwest Freeway, Stafford, Texas 77477

Four course menu- choice of one for each course:

Salad:

- Spicy Caesar or house salad

Entrees:

- 12 oz. Ribeye - flavorful aged choice, hand-cut steak with the most marbling
- Grilled chicken & shrimp- 6 oz. chicken breast and four shrimp, both lightly seasoned and Mesquite grilled
- Garlic steak & shrimp- 6 oz. sirloin topped with roasted garlic butter and paired with four shrimp (grilled or fried)

Sides:

- Garlic mashed potatoes
- Steamed vegetables
- Crispy shoestring fries
- Roasted butter corn
- Ranch house beans
- Sautéed mushrooms

Dessert:

- B-Bar-A brownie
- Peach bread pudding
- Bourbon pecan pie
- Lemon bar
- Chisholm Trail cheesecake
- Vanilla ice cream

Package includes fresh baked bread, soft drinks or iced tea and coffee service.

\$20 per person (includes sales tax and gratuity)

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Support your local HAM RADIO Club



BVARC GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST

Saturday, March 6, 2010
Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds

We are less than 3 months from the BVARC GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST.

There are many changes this year. Some of these are:

Real time on-line table selection and payment.

A revamped website. Check it out at www.houstonhamfest.org or go to the BVARC website for a link.

Once again, we expect to be appointed the ARRL South Texas Section Convention. As usual, we will have a raffle, an array of speakers included a featured speaker, door prizes, including a significant grand prize, food, ham radio license testing, tailgate sellers, emergency vehicles, DXCC checking, ham information table, a live HF station, organization tables such as ARRL, AMSAT, etc. and of course the swap meet. We believe that we are the second largest hamfest in Texas.

This is the most personnel intensive BVARC activity of the whole year. Try to help in any way that you are physically capable of. Contact either Rick Hiller, W5RH at rhiller@sdicgm.com or John Chauvin, K5IZO at k5izo@yahoo.com

We look forward to another successful hamfest.



Balloon 2m/10m Repeater a Success

by Allen Mattis N5AFV

The South Texas Balloon Launch Team's successful launch and flight of BLT-25 on August 29, 2009 from Wharton "Intergalactic Spaceport" carried a new "toy" for amateur radio operators to play with, and a number of BVARC members took advantage of the opportunity. Previous BLT flights in recent years have carried cross band repeaters using 2m for the uplink and 70cm for the downlink. BLT-25 carried such a repeater, but also had a second repeater using 2m FM up and 10m double sideband (DSB) down.

Many amateur radio operators do not have the equipment to operate on 70cm, but do have the capability to operate on 2m and 10m. The benefit of this second repeater on BLT-25 was that these amateur radio operators could use the balloon repeater and participate in the balloon flight. Some of the stations heard on the 2m/10m balloon repeater were Rick Hiller, W5RH, Bill Stone, W5SH, Dave Beers, AF5T, Joe Morgan, K5WJM, Andrew Koenig, KE5GDB, Marty Smith, WD5DZC, Andy MacAllister, W5ACM, Tom Graves, K5TG, Darrell Kirk, KC5JAR, Allen Mattis, N5AFV, and club stations W5DPA (HARC) and W5RPT (MERA). The uplink frequency was 146.435 MHz FM and the downlink frequency was 28.636 MHz DSB. The repeater output power was in the 100-150 milliwatt range and may be increased if the repeater is used on future balloon flights.

It took the stations a little time to figure out how to use the repeater. First of all, it takes a little practice to tune a DSB signal using USB or LSB. Your receiver must be tuned almost exactly on frequency to clearly receive the downlink. I had the benefit of prior experience making over 500 contacts on the AO-16 satellite, originally a digital packet satellite that had been re-configured for a 2m FM phone uplink and a 70cm DSB phone downlink after failure of its main computer. I was able to use my satellite station to work the 2m/10m balloon repeater, and I used a headset to listen to my downlink while I was transmitting. The headset revealed a second difficulty in using the repeater. If I spoke too loudly the audio in the repeater downlink was distorted as if I was over-deviating. When I backed off the microphone and spoke very softly my audio sounded normal. It did not take long for the repeater users to adjust their operating procedure and begin making contacts on the balloon repeater.

A balloon repeater is very similar to a satellite repeater. A number of the operators using the balloon repeater learned the benefit of using a headset to listen to their downlink. Use of a headset is standard procedure for operating on amateur radio satellites. Perhaps the 2m/10m repeater carried on BLT-25 provided the first step for some of the repeater users toward operating on amateur radio satellites.



Public Service Events Coming Up

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX

EVENT NAME – EVENT LOCATION	DATE	AMATEUR CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER
30K Warm-up Run -	12-13-2009	Mike Hardwick	713-826-6917
Houston Marathon – Houston	1-17-2010	Carl Hacker	713-500-9185
Frost Bike	1-?-2010	Mike Hardwick	713-826-6917
B-geO Magnolia Miles Bike Ride – Magnolia	3-20-2010	George Obrien	202-552-1760
BP MS150 – Houston to Austin	4-17/18-2010	Mike Hardwick	713-826-6917



Monday Night NET Updates

Don't forget the Monday Night Public Service Net starts at **8 pm** on 146.94 (167.9). 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:

8/17 - 16 - Claude, k5hfy (& ws5h)	9/21 - 0 - no net control	10/26 - 17 - Pete, kd5qpx
8/24 - 24 - Pete, kd5qpx	9/28 - 26 - pete, kd5qpx	11/2 - 18 - Cam, k5cam
8/31 - 28 - Sid, n5zkd	10/5 - 22 - Cam, k5cam	11/9 - 21 - Sid, n5zkd
9/7 - 17 - Cam, k5cam	10/12 - 24 - Bill, ws5h	11/16 - 15 - Rick, w5rh
9/14 - 23 - Randy, aa5oa+ws5h	10/19 - 10 - Rick, w5rh	11/23 - 17 - Pete, kd5qpx



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



THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

November check-ins

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

10/28/09, K5LKJ (NCS), AF5T, K5NDB, W5UHZ (Beaumont), K5CEK, WB5PNL (Beach City), WS5H, N5ZKD, N5CPA, W5RJA (Schulenburg) (T), WA5CYI, K5LJ, AA5OA, KR5Q (Natchez, TN), KB5LKE, W5RH, KA5MEI. (17 Check-Ins)

11/04/09, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TOM, K5CEK, WS5H, K5LOT, N5CPA, K5NDB, AE1JC (Jacksonville, TX), NM5K, W5RJA (Schulenburg) (T), KA5BKG (Brenham), K5LJ, AF5T, WFHFF. (14 Check-Ins)

11/11/09, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TOM, N5VXU, N5CPA, K5CEK, W5RH, K5LJ, WS5H, K5NDB, WB5VWB, WA5FMK, AA5OA, NU5K, W5RJA (Schulenburg) (T), WB5PNL (Beach City). (15 Check-Ins)

11/25/09, K5LKJ (NCS), KC5JAR, AF5T, W5TOM, N5CPA, W5RJA (Schulenburg) (T), N8NOV, K5LJ, AA5OA, KA5MEI, K5NDB, KD5YVQ/5 (Jasper, TX), KD5DFL (Alexandria, LA), WS5H, KC5ECK, W5RH, KD5PNT (LaGrange). (17 Check-Ins)

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

Thanks.

Regards._



Editor's Note:

Because of travel requirements, this issue could not be proof-read by others. Kindly overlook any inaccuracies and format problems.





BVARC Historical Vignettes – The BVARC Transmitter Hunts

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

Earlier Historical Vignettes told the story of how BVARC was founded in 1977 to provide emergency communications for Fort Bend County and southwestern Harris County. In the early years of the club it was decided that the ability to locate the position of a transmitter might be crucial in a disaster or emergency situation.

At the January 1980 BVARC general membership meeting it was decided that the club would investigate and run transmitter hunts open to all amateurs. BVARC president Bob Spradling, W5UBD, appointed Dick Bigelow, WD5CTQ, to head the transmitter hunt committee. The concept was that rules for the transmitter hunt would be simple, and the equipment used should not cost more than \$20.

The first mention of an actual transmitter hunt in the BVARC newsletter occurred in August 1980. The newsletter states “Through the courtesy of Madison Electronics we have been able to give some very nice and expensive prizes on the hunts. E. G., a Swan combination RF power and SWR meter, a noise bridge, a special antenna book, and two 1980 Callbooks. This is over \$125 worth of prizes, and we’ve been told there is more of similar type items to be donated for each future hunt. Our sincere thanks to Madison for their help.” Even with such a nice selection of prizes for the hunters, the newsletter commented “The monthly transmitter hunts are attracting a larger number of people than actual hunters, we regret to note, and hope that will change.”

Every BVARC newsletter for the remainder of 1980 mentioned the monthly transmitter hunt. According to the newsletter the transmitter hunts, which took place at 1 PM on the second Saturday each month, were taking about 50 minutes before someone located the transmitter. The September 1980 transmitter hunt had ten people participating, and the prize, donated by Madison electronics, was a 5/8 wave Buckbuster antenna with a magnetic mount. Gary Richardson, N5ANF, was now listed as chairman of the transmitter hunt, and the Transmitter Hunt Committee was now a Standing Committee of the BVARC. The December newsletter indicated that both Madison Electronics and Gateway Electronics were donating prizes for the transmitter hunts. The BVARC transmitter hunt was at its peak.

The 1981 club newsletters contain very little information about the BVARC transmitter hunts. The February newsletter bemoaned the fact that the same few people were winning the transmitter hunt each month and that a “monotonous monopoly” had developed. This monopoly was attributed to the participants’ skill and the fact that there were only a few participants. Richard Shankle, N5KV, and Ron Bolyard, KA5GYG, won the January transmitter hunt. There were four prizes, described as technical books donated by Madison Electronics.

The transmitter hunt continued to be listed in the club calendar in the newsletter through August 1981. The October 1981 through March 1982 club calendars in newsletters list the transmitter hunt followed by the comment “To be announced,” and the transmitter hunt disappeared from the club calendar in the April 1982. Apparently the transmitter hunt had faded away after an approximate two-year run. Certainly it was successful in that a number of BVARC members became proficient at locating hidden transmitters.

Even though the monthly BVARC transmitter hunts came to a halt, the club’s reputation for conducting transmitter hunts continued. BVARC was asked to conduct a transmitter hunt for the October 1982 amateur radio Com-Vention 82 held in Houston. The following year, 1983, the American Radio Relay League National Convention was held in Houston and BVARC put on a magnificent transmitter hunt. There were three hidden transmitters located in Hermann Park, Montrose, and a downtown parking garage. The transmitter in the downtown parking garage used a beam antenna to bounce its signal off the nearby tall buildings in order to confuse the participants. Despite this trickery, one team managed to locate all three transmitters in 2 hours 45 minutes. The following year BVARC also conducted a transmitter hunt for the Houston Ham-Com 84.

There have been other transmitter hunts or fox hunts in the Houston area over the years. In late 1989 and early 1990 a group held fox hunts once a month on Saturday mornings. Though these hunts were not officially sponsored by BVARC, a number of BVARC members, including Robert Ricketts, N5JKD, were involved in organizing and participating in them.



Minutes of November, 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 7:11 PM on November 5th, 2009 at Fudrucker's, 11445 Fountain Lake Drive, Stafford, 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.); Bill Stone, WS5H; Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; John Chauvin, K5IZO; Eddie Runner, NU5K.

- 1) Treasurer's Report was presented to and approved by the Board.
- 2) Old Business:
 - a) Sauermilch presented to the board the Pay Pal rate and asked the board if they wanted to reconsider the surcharge for persons using the service in the future with our web site. After discussion the board decided that the club would absorb the Pay Pal charges as that would not be passed on to the web site user when joining or renewing a BVARC membership or paying for hamfest registration.
 - b) Sauermilch has not yet completed the club's asset list.
- 3) New business:
 - a) The USS Cavalla organization sent BVARC a thank you for the club's donation.
 - b) Knoche reported to the board that the deposit and contract is in place with Texas Land and Cattle for the BVARC 2010 Banquet.
 - c) The 2010 Greater Houston Hamfest Budget was discussed and adopted by the board.
 - d) Hiller told the board that the General Membership Meeting activities for the remainder of 2009 are in place.
- 4) Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX



Minutes of the December, 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 7:05 PM on December 2009 at Fudrucker's, 11445 Fountain Lake Drive, Stafford, TX. Attending were: Charles Frost, K5LBU; (Pres.); 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.); Bill Stone, WS5H; Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; Eddie Runner, NU5K.

- 5) Minutes for the November 2009 meeting were approved as distributed to the board through email.
- 6) Treasurer's Report was approved as distributed to the board through email.
- 7) Business:
 - a) Awards Banquet: One nomination has been received for the Loop & Zepp. Additional nominations will hopefully be received from the general membership at the December 10th meeting.
 - b) General Membership Meeting Programs:
 - i) Hiller reported that "Pump Handle" Fawcette plans to bring a RC Helicopter and expert pilot to the December 10th Meeting, Home Brew Night.
 - ii) Future meeting topics:
 - (1) Hiller reported that the DX-Expedition DVD costs \$20 and runs several hours. This could be used for elements of several meetings in 2010.
 - (2) Hiller reported that he and Barber plan to present a discussion on Linear Amplifiers on either March or April 2010 at the discretion of the new Vice President.
 - c) Vice President (VP) board position: Hiller confirmed that Kirk Kendrick agreed to fill the remaining term of the VP position that resulted from Hiller being elected president. A motion was made and approved that Kendrick is to be the Vice President, pending his continued willingness to do so, when Hiller resigns the VP position in January 2010.
 - d) Museum Ship Weekend: BVARC received two certificates of participation from The Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station. Hiller is replicating the certificate that goes to the individual operators for participation.
 - e) Greater Houston Hamfest (GHH) March 6th 2010: We have a guest speaker, Dan Harrison, from the ARRL. The GHH will also be the South Texas Section Convention for 2010.
- 8) Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX



RESULTS OF THE November 10th BVARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION
By: John Moore, KK5NU

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

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

Three examination elements were administered during the evening to three applicants. One new Technician class license; an upgrade to General class and an upgrade to Amateur Extra 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:

Owen L. Morgan	- KF5CZO	- Amateur Extra
Gricel Rosado	- (KF5DYP}	- Technician
Roy E. Storey, Jr.	- KF5DMK	- 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 Campus for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

..... 73



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 Sauermilch, KD5QPX
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 146.94 (PL 167.9) 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 THURSDAY DINNER: December 17, 2009, 7:00p.m.

LAFAYETTE CAJUN SEAFOOD RESTAURANT, 10829 W.
Belfort Ave. at Wilcrest, SE Corner of intersection.

OTHER HAM GROUPS:

WEDNESDAYS – WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH---(Note new
location)

LUBY'S CAFETERIA, 10:30a.m. to 12:00Noon +, 9797
South Post Oak Road, just south of the I-610 Loop in Meyer
Park Shopping Center.

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>

San Antonio 2010 Amateur Radio Fiesta, 23 Jan 2010

San Antonio Radio Club
Knights of Columbus Hall
509 Schertz Parkway, Shertz, TX

<http://w5sc.org>

Talk-In: 146.940- (PL 179.9)

Greater Houston Hamfest, 6 March, 2010

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
ARRL South Texas Section Convention
Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds, Rosenberg, TX
www.houstonhnamfest.org

Talk-In: 146.940 minus offset (PL 167.9)

ARRL Louisiana State Convention (50th Acadiana Hamfest), 12-13 Mar 2010
Acadiana Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

[300 Frog Festival Drive](http://www.w5ddl.org/hamfest/index.htm), Rayne Civic Center, Rayne, LA

<http://www.w5ddl.org/hamfest/index.htm>

Talk-In: 146.82 (no PL tone)





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
Production Team: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, k5cam@arri.net
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

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2009

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

XGeneral Membership Meeting , Homebrew Night, Thursday, December 10, 2009

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