



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2010

VOLUME 34 ISSUE 11

Nov 11th General Membership Meeting

Chili Dinner & BVARC Election

Join us for our Annual Chili Supper – your chance to bring that “secret recipe” chili to wow your fellow hams. The Chili Supper is very popular with spouses and families, so don’t forget to bring them along with you. If you do bring chili (pre-heated, please) bring a serving spoon and whatever you need that goes with it. BVARC will supply all eating utensils, an assortment of drinks and condiments: including grated cheese, Fritos, chopped onions and jalapenos. Please notify the Chili Master – Ross W5HFF – if you are bringing some chili. Contact Ross by e-mail at w5hff@yahoo.com or landline at 281-701-7602

Also at the meeting, we will be electing a new Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer, a 2 year Director-at-Large and a 1 year Director-At-Large. Please contact John Moore, KK5NU, at jwm@hal-pc.org if you have any nominations (including yourself!) for any of these positions. Nominations will also be open from the floor (pre-vote casting) -- please ensure your nominated candidate approves.

REMEMBER – you only have 1 month left to complete your homebrew project to show at the December meeting! A twist has been added for this December’s “homebrew night” – non builders can bring their favorite piece of ham gear or accessory to demonstrate (or just talk about).



October Meeting Report

At the October General Membership meeting, we were treated us to 5 presentations (roughly 15 min each):

- Rick – Antenna analyzing from Grid Dip meters to VNA
- Ross – Basic Measurements with a Multimeter – focusing on VOM and DMM
- Pete – Oscilloscopes in the shack
- Tom – using your handy FT817 as a piece of test gear
- Robert – special tools for testing power and computer hookups

It was amazing to see the amount of gear these guys have “just in case” something breaks or they need to test their new project’s capabilities. And, as Tom summed up, his test gear can even be used to Get On The Air!



President's Corner

By Rick Hiller – W5RH

BVARC – If you want to be a Ham, hang out with Hams!

A play on the old adage, “If you want to be rich, hang out with rich people”. This old adage says it concisely. Essentially, when you spend time with people who have what you want you can't help but pick up a little of their mojo. You see how they think and how they respond to challenges. Ham Radio works the same way. If you want to have fun with your hobby or learn new things or be exposed to a new section of the hobby, you have got to be a bit more than a couch potato. Work the bands, come to the meetings, check into the nets, be a net control, work a bike ride, etc. Essentially, hang out with Hams.

Unfortunately, it works the other way too. Ben Franklin said it best: “He that lieth down with Dogs, shall rise up with fleas”. In other words, the title adage is reversed, if you do nothing within the hobby then you will not get the full enjoyment out of the hobby. So, what can you do? Glad you asked!

Work some DX – we have BVARC members currently in KL7 and A25. Allen who has been working up in Alaska for quite some time is on the air a significant amount of time and posts his exploits and whereabouts on the BVARC reflector. He is always looking to work someone from home. Charlie, K5LBU, “Frosty”, has been in Botswana as A25CF, along with 7 other OPS. I hope you got to work their DX-pedition.

Cook up some Chili (not really Ham Radio, but, a foundation element of BVARC culture). Ross, W5HFF, is coordinating the Annual Chili Supper for the November 11th meeting. Cook up some chili and bring it in a crock pot. If it takes extra fixings, bring them too. BVARC will provide the necessities. The chili is up to the membership to bring. So, whip up your favorite chili and show it off to the club, but let Ross know that you are bringing it.

Run for office. Don't forget the November “Election”. The BVARC election, that is. No Democrats or Republicans here, just club members wanting to do more for the club. This year, in 2010, we elect (for 2 year terms) the Vice-president, the Secretary, the Corresponding Secretary, and 2 At Large Board Members. The election committee, headed by Sir John Moore, KK5NU, is always looking for any candidates to step up to the key. Think about running. Seriously. Please! It really is fun to see the workings of the club and to be a part of the machine behind it all.

Now, a quick glance back to October shows us, not only our normal weekly “Net” activity, but a great General Membership meeting and presentation on Test Equipment, a Boy Scout Ham Radio Station -- W5BSA at SHAC JAM, and AMSAT, JOTA and BVARC representation at The Brazos Bend Astronomy Day. Many BVARC Hams also supported the communications need at the Wings Over Houston Airshow. Also, John -- K5IZO, Ross -- W5HFF and their dedicated students, have just completed the CW class. So, hopefully, there will be some more folks on the CW portions of the bands and more checkins for the BVARC CW net. A look to the future shows that December brings our Annual Homebrew Night and, plus, this year, “Favorite Gear Night.” The annual banquet in January is still in the planning stages, but stay tuned.

Speaking of Hams hanging out with Hams, we have some new and renewing members that want to be a part of the hobby and our radio club. BVARC has 3 new members – Jerod, W5JMK, (son of our VP, Kirk), Thomas – KF5IEX (DL4MDW) and Rene – KF5GDS. We have 1 new Life-Time member – Kirk – KK2Z (our VP). Also, there are 9 renewing members – Arnold – K5ADA (our Treasurer), Bill – WS5H and Norma – KE5NDN, Kevin – KD5O, Tony – KF5CGV, Howard – KF5EYX, Alan – KD5WLP, Clyde – W5MCM and George – NQ5F. Thanks to all for stepping up.

So, as you can see, there is plenty of opportunity for you to be a full bodied Amateur Radio Operator and hang out with your fellow BVARC'ers on the air, at external events and at the club meetings. Ham Radio may not make you rich, but it sure beats the couch potato routine. Enjoy your hobby. See you on the radio. 73 – Rick – W5RH (dit dit)



Public Service Events

As this goes to press, this information is not available. Check the website and next month's issue for future information.

The 2010 KK5W TxPedition (Texas QSO Party)

Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z; Jerod Kendrick W5JMK, Pete Sauermilch, KD5QPX

Probably the one thing you never want to say is; "Well, is seemed like a good idea at the time." The thing you don't want to ever hear is; "Well, all you have to do is ..." It is really not a good thing when both happen in the same event. That was the 2010 Texas QSO party for Kirk, Jerod, and Pete operating mobile as KK5W. Will we do it again? No doubt, just not that way.

It really started in the '09 TQP when Kirk and Pete operated mobile. When they didn't have a lot of dead air they had crowding from adjacent stations. As the 2010 TQP came over the horizon, Pete said; "Hey, I just got this SB200 from Rick. Let's use that!" That's the "seemed like a good idea" part. Kirk should have said "No, no, no!" Instead he said, "Hey, I've got this Jeep trailer and a generator, we can do this!" That's the "all you have to do is" part. Routes were eventually agreed upon and declared, cables made, new radios and antennas installed, generator mounts welded. Friday evening before the event, everyone was at Kirk's working on his SUV. It got a new screwdriver with remote tuning, trailer hitch mounted generator pedestal, and a new Icom 7000 followed with 45-year-old SB200 and manual antenna tuner.



The two maps show the intended routes. Saturday (left) was a tall triangle going from Houston, Beaumont, and Cartage; 468 miles. Sunday (right) was a wide triangle going from Houston, Victoria (almost), and Luling (almost); 318 miles. John Chauvin invited us to Saturday lunch in his "cabin" in the Angelina National Forest. We said, "Free food, right?"



Saturday morning dawned and the boys were wired! Jerod was last to get picked up. TQP started as we rolled away from his house.

The generator shown in the picture was swapped at Jerod's house for a 3KW unit. It didn't know the linear was there and the pedestal worked beautifully! The Icom 7000 fed the SB200 linear that fed a MFJ989D manual tuner that fed a Hi-Q 3/80 screwdriver antenna. Adding the tuner allowed a match to the antenna that had no measurable reflected power. The radio equipment worked really well.



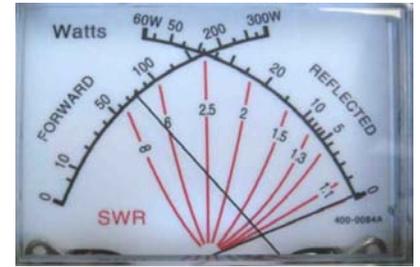
Challenge #1: Driving with a new vertical antenna and trees. Wack! thunk! Humm, didn't see that one coming. Not to worry, they don't have trees on I10. Life was good. Contacts were plentiful. With three in the car, operational duties were easy; driver, logger, and operator. The logger sat behind the radio operator who was in the front passenger seat. Our reports were mostly 59 though many were a tough copy. Challenge #2: Road noise and having a bigger mouth than ears. Two types of people inhabit the world, those who automatically give 59 during a contest and those who don't. On reflection it seems a good idea that they should not contact each other during a contest. Challenge #3: Established nets that start-up during a contest. Case in point is the slow-scan net on 14.230. Now you would think that operating USB on 14.236 would allow enough room to be a good neighbor. Well a KZ8 station didn't think so. He wouldn't at first identify himself, but that's another matter. So we moved up another 4 to keep the peace. Up to that point we averaged about 50 Qs per hour, not awful but nothing to write home about either. Feeling thirsty we stopped at a Sonic. When we got back in the car, it was like we stepped into another world.



Twenty meters was dead so we tried forty meters. Challenge #4: This is the "I guess we should have checked that out sooner." part. RF was getting into the car speakers even with the car radio turned off, a lot! I mention here that Kirk had wired the car

stereo into his 7000 so we had ham surround sound. Disconnecting the two left us listening to the tiny Icom speaker AND the RF in the stereo. That wasn't going to fly! In addition, for reasons we never figured out, we just could not tune the antenna, even with a manual tuner assist. With lunchtime bearing down on them, the boys turned off the equipment and headed for John's cabin-in-the-woods. It was time to think about options, none seemed good.

Now is a good time to time warp back to the last newsletter and mention the picture. It's showing 800W Forward power (high setting). That may seem like a good thing, but not always as we discovered.



At John's, hamburgers made the situation look less bleak. After the late lunch, Kirk and Jerod wired and rewired the car several times. The RF just would not go away. Challenge #5: "You know what we really need is ...". In a word, ferrites, and lots of them, tons in fact, megatons. How many did the boys have? Exactly zero among them. But a solution presented itself! Jerod pulled the radio fuse!

The boys had a new plan, no amplifier and no car radio! The amplifier would still get into the car radio on 40 meters. Fortunately Honda put the car radio on its own fuse. Thank you Soichiro. We could work 40 meters with 100 watts and that would carry us through the end of the day. Challenge #6: "If we only had ..." a speaker. The one in the Icom was going to make for a long evening. John to the rescue! From his storage shed, John produced a speaker. It even had a plug that fit Kirk's radio. Now that was planning on John's part. Thank you John. Challenge #7: Too much highway, too little time. Meticulous route planning went out the window and we took off for Lufkin. The top third of the triangle wasn't in the cards for 2010.

Rolling down two lane roads in San Augustine, Angelina, and Nacogdoches counties proved interesting. We experienced several brief pile-ups. Traffic density briefly hit 65 Qs per hour. Then Kirk said; "Pete, did you notice that the car stutters when you key the transmitter?" Sure enough, even at 100 watts, RF was getting into the engine computer. Did that slow the down-key time, not at all? Saturday closed with the boys north of Cleveland with 110 contacts.

Sunday was much more relaxed than Saturday, way more radio time, way less problem solving. Twenty meters didn't have the legs it did on Saturday so 40 meters became the "money band". Last year we discovered that cell phone towers are good markers for static operations, that proved true again this year. It was at a cell tower that we caught one of the stations sitting at the intersection of four counties in the panhandle. I later looked it up and they were near Lubbock. We also had a brief pile-up where we could not log as fast as contacts were made. Bing, the pile up started; then six minutes later; poof, it was gone. There was a time we were trying to contact a mobile that was in the county we were approaching. Then woosh, he came by us going in the opposite direction. We never did make that contact. Then again, there is next year.



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:

7/19 - 27 - Dwayne, kb5yta
7/26 - 39 - Pete, kd5qpx
8/2 - 32 - Cam, k5cam
8/9 - 33 - Bill & Norma
8/16 - 27 - Sid, n5zkd

8/23 - 42 - Pete, kd5qpx
8/30 - 36 - Cam, k5cam
9/6 - 32 - Cam, k5cam
9/13 - 36 - Dwayne, kb5yta
9/20 - 36 - Dwayne, kb5yta

9/27 - 41 - Pete, kd5qpx
10/4 - 32 - Cam, k5cam
10/11 - 32 - Clint, kf5hdf
10/18 - 21 - Dwayne, kb5yta
10/25 - 36 - Pete, kd5qpx



Minutes of October 7th, 2009 Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club:

Rick Hiller called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:00 PM on October 7th, 2009 at Fudrucker's, 11445 Fountain Lake Drive, Stafford, TX. Attending were: Rick Hiller, W5RH (Pres.); Arnold Knoche, K5ADA (Treas./Cor. Sec.); Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.); David Barber, K5NDB, (At-Large Dir.); Charles Frost, K5LBU; (Past Pres.); Ross Lawler, W5HFF (At-Large Dir.); Eddie Runner, NU5K; Norma Stone, KE5NDN; Bill Stone, WS5H; Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; John Chauvin, K5IZO; David Bogart, N5EMG; Billy Jones Jr., N5EVD; Angel Abbott-Jones, KC5KRV.

- 1) Minutes for the September 2010 meeting were approved as previously distributed by email and appears in the September 2010 newsletter.
- 2) Treasurer's Report was presented to and approved by the Board.
- 3) Old Business:
 - a) Asset List: Sauermilch, no action.
 - b) Club Apparel: Hiller, no action.
 - c) 2011 Banquet: Hiller, no action.
 - d) NewsLetter Advertising: Knoche, no activity. Discussion followed regarding rates. To encourage advertisement, the board voted to charge \$250/year for one-half page advertisements that are invoiced and paid one year in advance.
 - e) CW Class: Chauvin reported there are enough people to make the class.
 - f) BSA Shack Jam: Hiller reported he would have two complete stations and three antennas for the event.
 - g) Astronomy Day: Chauvin reported that it would be at the George Observatory, Brazos Bend State Park on October 16th. BVARC and AMSAT will share a table. AMSAT will work a satellite pass. There will be a space station contact handled from off site. BVARC is not responsible for that contact.
 - h) Air Show: Elington Field, October 23rd.
 - i) KK5W Call Use Rules: Lawler explained why new rules are in effect. Currently logs resulting from call use are due to him within 14 days. He may extend that to 30.
- 4) New Business:
 - a) BVARC Digipeater: Stone reported that the club digipeater has been operating 24/7 trouble free at West Oaks Hospital. Currently it is on 145.010 because of the heavy congestion on 145.050. He is providing to Sauermilch a list of station equipment for the asset list.
 - b) 2011 Greater Houston Hamfest: Chauvin presented to the board a proposed budget. After discussion, his budget and authorization to spend up to \$4,864 for the event was approved by the board.
 - c) 2011 Ham Com: Hiller proposed that BVARC have a table at the event. His defense was that promoting the club enlarges membership and voluntarism. After discussion the board authorized him to spend up to \$250 on the event.
 - d) Elections, November 2010: Positions up for election are Vice-president, Treasurer/Corresponding Secretary, At Large Director, and At Large Director to replace Past President. There was discussion regarding the necessity of electing a third At Large Director. (Editorial Note: The Recording Secretary consulted the published by-laws as found on the BVARC Web Site. Article IV, Section A, Numbered Paragraph 2) discusses replacing the Past President position. This paragraph suggests that there would be three At Large Directors as it uses the words "In Addition". This is in conflict with previous statements in the By Laws that enumerate the number of Officers and Directors.)
- 5) Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX



THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

October check-ins

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

09/29/10, K5LKJ (NCS), N5CPA, AF5T, W5TKZ, WA5CYI/5 (P)(Gray Lake, AK), WA5JMC/5 (P) (Gray Lake, AK), W5RH, K5IZO, K5LJ, K5NDB, AA5OA, WB5PNL (Beach City), W55RJA (Schulenburg), K5LBU, KK5Z, KG5KB, KF5CPC (Alvin), W5HFF (M). (22 Check-Ins)

10/06/10, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, K5LBU, N5CPA, WA5CYI/5 (P) (Lake of the Pines), WB5PNL (Beach City), WS5H, W55RJA (Schulenburg), W5HFF (M), W5TOM, K5IZO, WD6CQO (Nederland), K5CEK, AA5OA, K5NDB, AF5T, KA5MEI, WA5JMC/5 (P)(Lake of the Pines), KD5YVQ (Kingwood), W5RH, KONM, WA5OEN (Pasadena). (10 Check-Ins)

10/13/10, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TOM, W55RJA (Schulenburg), W5TKZ, WS5H, AF5T, WA5CYI, K5LJ, K5IZO, N5CPA, WB5PNL (Beach City), AA5OA, K0NM, W5RH, KC5JAR, KG5KV, WB5EXI. (17 Check-Ins)

10/20/10, K5LKJ (NCS), KD7THJ, WS5H, W55RJA (Schulenburg), W5TKZ, K5LJ, AE5UI (Shreveport, LA), AA5OA, W5RH, K5NDB, WB5PNL (Beach City), WA5OEN (Pasadena), K5YZS (Spring), WA5FMK, KC8RPK (Jasper). (15 Check-Ins)

(M) = mobile (P) = Portable (R) = Relay (T) = telephone check-in
Thanks. Regards., John C. Whiteman

BVARC Shows Its Support for the Texas QSO Party

You have seen the article above about the participation of Pete Sauermilch, KD5QPX and Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z in the Texas QSO party while using the club call KK5W. Good work guys!

In recent years BVARC has shown growing support for this event by more and more member participation and by financing several plaques which are awarded by the coordinators of TQP. This year BVARC funded 4 of the plaques.

In addition to the TxPedition described in the above article, quite a few members participated either from their home QTHs or from a portable location. These at least included K5NDB, K5LKJ, W5HFF, N5DTT, N5XZ (Operating as KL5DX from Alaska) and K5IZO (portable from San Augustine County). Last year, N5DTT was portable from his country place in central Texas. There certainly were other members that worked the event, but didn't submit their information to the Editor.

These members worked the event to varying degrees and using different approaches. Some only worked TX stations. Others only worked 1 band. Some worked for 1 or 2 hours whereas others worked it for more than 8 hours. The individual's numbers varied from 17 QSOs to 291 QSOs, and up to 100 counties, 30 states and several DX. None of the scores come close to the category "leaders," but we all enjoyed the laid-back, but sometimes frenzied, fun.

BVARC participation is clearly increasing and further individual member participation is encouraged. Keep the Texas QSO Party in mind for next year. Everyone who participates always says how much fun they had.



K5IZO/P near Jasper, TX



RESULTS OF THE OCTOBER 12 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, October 12, 2010 at HCC's Scarcella Science & Technology Building here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Dennis Dietrich, W5DDD
John Moore, KK5NU

Jeff Fussell, KD5VGE
George Ontko, KM5VP

Four examination elements were administered during the evening to three applicants. One new Technician class license, and one upgrade to General class were attained; with the total number of elements passed being 2. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 50%.

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

Andrew S. Fox - KD5NAY - General
Robert Parker - {KF5ISY} - 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 Science & Technology Building for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month. 73



Astronomy Day at George Observatory and Amateur Radio

As announced in last month's newsletter in the article entitled "The Perfect Storm," a confluence of events took place at George Observatory on Oct. 16 combining amateur radio with amateur astronomy. Every year the amateur astronomy folks have an event called Astronomy Day. This year 2950 (official count) people attended. This comprises people of all ages with many children and the adults tending to be on the younger side (possible median age was 25 or so). Because it is about astronomy, by definition, the visitors have an interest in this science.

So in addition to the normal Astronomy Day events (various viewing, lectures, etc.), the hams coordinated several events including an ARISS contact with the space station. Several boy scouts and students from a middle school actually talked with the astronauts.

The AMSAT folks gave a live demo of making QSOs via satellite. Actually two stations were set up, Allen Mattis, N5AFV and Bruce Page, KK5DO, each made 3 or 4 Qs with others on the same satellite pass which lasted about 6 or 7 minutes. Scott McKee, NT5SM, set up a receiver so the public could hear the downlink.

BVARC set up a HF station (Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z) and a VHS IRLP link (Scott McKee, NT5SM) on the main observing deck. Also a BVARC/AMSAT table was set up in the building for visitors to take literature and to talk and learn about amateur radio. Ross Lawler, W5HFF, and John Chauvin, K5IZO, helped in set-up/ tear-down and manning the various locations.

It was also the weekend of the Boy Scout Jamboree On The Air (JOTA). Several scout troops camped at the park and at least one set up a station to work other scouts worldwide. These scouts visited the demo sites on the deck and inside the building.

Everyone had a good time and hopefully some good benefit for amateur radio will come out of it.



Scott (NT5SM) and Kirk (KK2Z) demoing equipment to visitors



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Morse Code Classes

These classes are proceeding well. Nine hams are in attendance. The class was extended one class session in order to provide some additional details and to provide for a live demo of contacts made on the air. This last class is tentatively set for Monday, Nov. 8. If you wish to attend this last class, but haven't attended the other classes, it is OK. Send an e-mail to k5izo@yahoo.com for details. Hopefully, after you see the demo, you will want to "dust off" your CW skills, or take the initiative to add CW to your repertoire of modes that you use.



Meeting Notebook – Upcoming BVARC Meetings

November – Chili Dinner, BVARC Elections

December – Homebrew Night and "Bring your favorite piece of Ham gear"

January (2011) – BVARC annual banquet and awards

BVARC Historical Vignettes – 1982 Snapshot of BVARC

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

Sometimes I wonder how the membership of BVARC has changed over the years. What do we know about the club's members in past years? The information in club newsletters from 1982 gives us a feeling for what BVARC was like at that point in time.

In 1982 the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club had 77 members. Of these, 73 held amateur radio licenses, and 4 were waiting to hear from the Federal Communications Commission after testing or were studying to take the Novice Class exam. Of the 77 members, 3 were women and all of the women held amateur radio licenses.

The license class held by the membership ranged from new Novices to experienced Extra Class operators. A General Class or higher license was held by 82 percent of the members. The breakdown by license class was Novice Class 2 members, Technician Class 11 members, General Class 10 members, Advanced Class 38 members, and Extra Class 12 members.

A total of 63 club members or 86.3 percent belonged to the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). All 12 of the Extra Class members belonged to the ARRL. For the other license classes, 1 Novice Class, 8 Technician Class, 9 General Class, and 33 Advanced Class members belonged to the ARRL.

After studying the breakdown of club membership, the board members of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club decided to pursue two areas related to encouraging growth of the club. According to the June 1982 BVARC Bulletin, the club would make "an overt effort to introduce Amateur Radio to youngsters under 16 years of age," and they would "offer an additional study course designed to support the General and Advanced Class licensees in their efforts and desire to upgrade."

The club implemented this plan, and by the late 1980s the BVARC membership included 10 to 15 teenagers and young adults. As related in previous Historical Vignettes, many of them participated in the club's public service events; however, the number of younger members in BVARC has dwindled over the years as the Internet and other technology became more pervasive in our society and interest in ham radio dwindled. Even though 28 years have passed, the teaching of classes structured to help members upgrade their class of license has continued to this day. The policies implemented in 1982 by the board members of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club helped shape BVARC as we know it today.



BVARC "Under 15" CW Net Tuesday 7PM

Join us for a fun filled 30 to 45 minutes of working the CW mode. Net is transmitted at 11/15 WPM Farnsworth spacing, so it is easy to copy. The net structure is just like the Rag Chew Net on Wednesday nights. Pre-amble, call for check-ins "QNI?" and then each station is called "QTT" to invite them to transmit a short greeting or message. Net Control (NC) is Rick, W5RH. Frequency is on 28.043 MHz. Listen to a sample pre-amble (mp3) on the CW Net web page at <http://bvarc.org/index.php?page=cwnet> Just have a listen or join in, but do get on the air and have some fun with CW.



Remember the Alamo – A Special Event Opportunity

Allen F. Mattis, N5AFV

Frank Tolbert, a noted Texas historian and journalist, once said, "*Every Texan has two homes* his own and San Antonio." I visit San Antonio whenever I can and a recent industry conference provided an opportunity for me to enjoy my other home. I always visit the Alamo when I am in San Antonio, and this trip was no exception. My hotel was just a short walk from the Alamo.

The Alamo has been managed by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas since 1905 and is a "must see" for all who come to San Antonio. The museums at the Alamo contain exhibits on the Texas revolution and Texas history. Many American grade school students learn about James Bowie, David Crockett, William B. Travis, and the other defenders of the Alamo who died on March 6, 1836 when the army of General Antonio López de Santa Anna stormed the Alamo.

A number of years ago on a trip to San Antonio it occurred to me that it would be possible to work satellite passes from the Alamo using my Icom W32A HT and a Premier (Pryme) AL800 telescoping antenna. This portable station is very compact and does not draw attention. I almost always take this equipment with me when I travel and have made over 9000 satellite contacts with it. I am certain that the Texas Department of Public Safety officers who guard the Alamo twenty-four hours a day would never let me operate at that location if I used an Arrow antenna, but the HT with an AL800 antenna does not draw as much attention.

I have operated satellite passes from the Alamo four different times in the past nine years. I usually operate from a park located about 150 feet from the Alamo, however, on one of my earlier operations I made two contacts while standing 40 feet from the front door of the Alamo. My most recent operation from the Alamo took place on October 11-12, 2010 when I worked two passes of AO-27 and one pass of SO-50 making a total of 15 contacts. I have a special QSL card with a picture of the Alamo for those who work me.



The Alamo in San Antonio, Texas (EL09sk). Note DPS officer present in lower left.

2010 Club Officers:

President:

Rick Hiller, W5RH
rhiller@sdicgm.com

Vice President:

Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z
kmkendrick@gmail.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):

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

OTHER HAM GROUPS:

WEDNESDAYS – WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH

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>

11/06/2010 | 12th Annual Coastal Bend Hamfest

Location: Corpus Christi, TX

Website: <http://n5crp.org>

3/5/2011 Greater Houston Hamfest.

Remember the BVARC Greater Houston Hamfest, March 5, 2011. If you
haven't volunteered, contact Rick Hiller, W5RH, at rhiller@sdicgm.com or
John Chauvin, K5IZO at k5izo@yahoo.com

x





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

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 146.94 (minus offset, PL 167.9 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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**BRAZOS VALLEY
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SUGAR LAND, TX 77487-2997
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General Membership Meeting – November 11

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