



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

JANUARY 2011

VOLUME 35 ISSUE 1

To all BVARC club Members. Please make plans to attend.

BVARC Awards Banquet January 14th, 2011

Sugar Land Marriot Hotel, 16090 City Walk, Sugar Land, TX 77479

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Jim Siebert – KC5TIN

Chief Meteorologist for KRIV Fox26 TV News

6:00pm – hor d'ourves and cash bar starts in the Sugar Land Ballroom Foyer.

6:45pm – Italian Extravaganza Dinner is served, buffet style

7:30pm – Our keynote speech by Dr. Jim Siebert, KC5TIN, head of the Channel 26 Weather.

8:15pm – Presentation of BVARC awards and a Year in Review slide show

Additional details and directions can be found on the BVARC website – www.bvarc.org

Tickets are \$25 for full members and \$25 for the first guest

Note: Only full members are allowed a guest. Family members, under a full membership, count as guests.

Tickets for non-members and extra guests are \$50.

Go to -- <http://bvarc.org/index.php?page=banquet>

to purchase tickets, see the menu and read the bio of Dr. Siebert – KC5TIN

Questions or comments to Rick – W5RH – BVARC President 2010/2011

rhiller@sdicgm.com

NOTE: There is no General Membership Meeting in January.



President's Corner

By Rick Hiller – W5RH

I hope this column meets you at a great time in your Ham Radio life -- the start of a new year. The new year provides us with a chance to offer up a wish for 1) better propagation for working DX, 2) better band conditions (less noise/more signals) and 3) the time to apply towards increasing our Ham Radio skill and knowledge levels. So put on your thinking caps and generate a New Ham Radio Year's Resolution List. Be it a few things, or just one, make them tasks that you intend to keep and then attack it with a vengeance. (No procrastinators here) Last month's column talked about reflection, so I hope that your reflection on this accomplished in 2010 will assist you in generating some great resolutions. At the end of the year (December 2011) you will be glad that you formulated a list and stuck to it.

BVARC-wise we start our club schedule all over again. Starting with January, the BVARC Annual Awards Banquet on Friday JANUARY 14TH. The venue is the Sugar Land Marriott Hotel Ballroom where we'll hold a real banquet, with a cocktail and hors d'oeuvre hour, then dinner, followed by a key note speaker – Dr. Jim Siebert – KC5TIN—of Channel 26 Weather. The menu will be an Italian buffet. All this, along with, of course, the camaraderie of your fellow BVARC'ers and their spouses, friends and family. We currently have 39 folks signed up to attend. It would be nice to have 80 or 90 folks attend this year, with all of our new members. IMPORTANT: Don't forget, you MUST purchase a ticket for yourself and your guest, as we need to know exactly how many folks will be in attendance. You only have until January 9th to place your on-line order on the web site. Find full details further on in this newsletter. Note that the ticket price for the members and their one guest has been raised to \$25 each, but keep in mind that the club is subsidizing more than this amount per person. Hey, we all work hard for the club, so all the members should be provided some nice things throughout the year, this subsidy being one. So, I do hope that you all will go on line and buy a couple of tickets and come out and enjoy our evening extravaganza to celebrate the collective efforts and successes of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.

Attention all of you newer hams and members with the KF5-calls: you are most welcome to attend the banquet. It's all about the club and the membership, both neophyte and old timers. Don't feel like you don't belong, because....YOU DO! We want you there.

The next big yearly event is the BVARC Greater Houston Hamfest (GHH), now just 2 months away. Please volunteer your time and efforts for the one and a half day radio event (Friday PM set-up and Saturday for the event itself) Check out the good stuff about the GHH at www.houstonhamfest.org. John, K5IZO, and I (the co-chairs) will be holding meetings and asking for volunteers starting this month and getting into the Hamfest logistics mode in February. Let us hear from you.

A part of the www.BVARC.org web page has recently been completed. The complete library of BVARC newsletters from March, 1978 (the first one) to the present are organized by year and placed in PDF format for your perusal. Thanks to the efforts of Larry Levy- WD5DRB, Cam Mitchell-K5CAM, Allen Mattis-N5AFV, Eddie Runner-NU5K, Bud King-K5CEK for getting all of these issues together in one place and in a format (PDF) that will be perpetually available, at least for the next decade or so. I helped some too, so I know of the effort that was expended by all of the helpful crew. Have a click through a few of them at various points in the club's history. If you can believe it, we have had club membership up into the 210+ member range. Now, THAT is a Ham Radio Club!

Hamfests for the month are few, but the one in Schertz, Texas (north east of San Antonio) put on by the San Antonio ARC is a great one. Traveling three hours, on January 22nd starting at 5AM isn't for the lighthearted, but it is well worth your time. I'll be there for sure. I attend this San Antonio Hamfest, the BVARC Greater Houston Hamfest and the Texas City Hamfest every year. They are part of my Ham New Year's resolution list. Make attending our local hamfests part of your list too.

Enjoy your hobby. See you on the radio. Rick – W5RH (dit dit)



Meeting Notebook – Upcoming BVARC Meetings

January 2011 – BVARC annual banquet and awards

February 2011 -- ARISSAT-1 – An Amateur Radio “Suit” Satellite



December Meeting Report

With 14 people bringing items in to show, the club was treated to a variety of equipment that members have built, modified, and “applied”. Fantastic skills from a fantastic group of amateurs. More importantly – the air conditioning worked flawlessly this time at the Eldridge Park Community Center.

The live CW station which was set up in the parking lot had some technical problems but a couple of Qs were made prior to the start of the meeting.



THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

December check-ins

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

12/01/10, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, WS5H, K5NDB, K0NM, N5CPA, W5HFF (M), K5LJ, W5TKZ, W5TOM, K5IZO, AF5T, WB5PNL (Beach City), W5RH, KF5HEB, KD5QPX.
(16 Check-Ins)

12/08/10, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, K0NM, AF5T, W5TKZ, WS5H, K5NDB, KF5HEB, AA5OA, K5LJ, K5IZO, WB5PNL (Beach City), W5HFF (M), KC5FSY (Eagle Lake), KC5JAR (Katy), W5TOM, WA5GES (Milano), KE5OBY. (18 Check-Ins)

12/15/10, W5RH (NCS), AF5T, K5NDB, KF5HEB, KE5OBY, WS5H, K5LJ, W5TKZ, AA5OA, WB5PNL (Beach City), W5HFF (M), WB5VYR, N5CPA, KC5JAR (Katy), WB4KTF, N5TGL. (16 Check-Ins)

12/22/10, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, K0NM, WA5FMK, KD5O, WB5VYR, WN5A, AF5T, K5LJ, N5CPA, W5TKZ, W5HFF (M), WA5CYI, W5TOM, K5LBU, N5CGL, (Fulshear), W5RH, K5NDB, WS5H, WB5PNL (Beach City), KE5OBY, NT5SM, AA5OA, WA9YNJ. (24 Check-Ins)
SFI = 78, A = 1, K = 0, SN = 0 (M) = mobile (P) = Portable (R) = Relay (T) = telephone check-in

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



Minutes of December, 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 December 12th, 2009 Fudrucker's, 11445 Fountain Lake Drive, Stafford, TX. Attending were: Rick Hiller, W5RH (Pres.); Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z (V.P.); 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; Suzanne Runner, KF5GWZ; Norma Stone, KE5NDN; Bill Stone, WS5H; Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; John Chauvin, K5IZO; Bob Tomlinson, N5JSL.

- 1) Minutes for the October 2010 meeting were approved as previously distributed by email and appears in the November 2010 newsletter.
- 2) Treasurer's Report was presented to and approved by the Board.
- 3) Old Business:
 - a) Meeting Schedule was presented by Kendrick:
 - i) November: Chili Supper & Election is considered being good turn out.
 - ii) December: Home Brew & Favorite Piece of Equipment. John and Ross setting up a CW station before the meeting.
 - iii) January: Banquet
 - iv) February: Satellite talk and live QSO
 - b) Asset List: Runner compiling list and placing it in a secured location on the web site.
 - c) Club Apparel: Hiller, no action.
 - d) Banquet: Jan 14th, BVARC has ¼ of Marriott Ballroom and KC5TIN is featured speaker.
 - e) Awards: Hiller needs nominations by December 9th.
 - f) CW Class: Chauvin stated that there were 5 class sessions with 9 students.
 - g) KK5W Call: Lawler encourages call usage by members. There are now use rules posted on web site.
 - h) Hamfest: Chauvin encourages task leaders to make first contacts before Christmas. First organization meeting in 2011. Arrangements at Fairground are set. First prize for the raffle will be a Flex 3000! This is NOT the same raffle that is entered by entering the hamfest.
 - i) Ham Com: First weekend in June 2011. Hiller will set up a BVARC table, cost to club is \$250.
- 4) New business:
 - a) Board positions, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer: Knoche would like the duties of that position split so there is a separate Corresponding Secretary. Tomlinson has volunteered to be Corresponding Secretary. Board approved.
 - b) Fed Income Tax: Pollard will again do BVARC return.
 - c) Field Day: A review of FD2010 produced the request that club purchase coax for event use. Board approved the purchase 500 ft. of RG213. Kendrick to store cable for club.
 - d) Ten-Ten International: Board voted to renew membership, without newsletter, for three years at \$15.
 - e) Museum Ship Weekend 2011: 1st weekend in June. Stone needs volunteers.
 - f) Web Site: Lawler proposed that club should compile a list of web-sites for beginners in Amateur Radio. Frost stated that CQ Magazine has that type of material in it.
- 5) Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX



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:

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
11/1 - 33 - Cam, k5cam
11/8 - 32 - Clint, kf5hdf
11/15 - 20 - Dwayne, kb5yta
11/22 - 36 - Pete, kd5qpx

11/29 - 40 - Sid, n5zkd
12/6 - 42 - Cam, k5cam
12/13 - 26 - Clint, kd5hdf
12/20 - 27 - Dwayne, kb5yta
12/27 - 26 - Pete, kd5qpx

River Oaks Car Stereo

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Russell - KE5YYT- Eddie Jr-KB5OBB

Patricia -KE5YYV- Suzanne -KF5GWZ

www.riveroakscarstereo.com

www.installer.com

HAM RADIO IS BACK IN HOUSTON AGAIN!



RESULTS OF THE DECEMBER 14 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, December 14, 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

Larry Jacobson, K5LJ

Three examination elements were administered during the evening to three applicants. One one upgrade to General class and one upgrade to Amateur Extra were attained; with the total number of elements passed being 2. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 66.6%.

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

Jerod M. Kendrick - W5JMK - General
Thomas Krahn - {AE5VN} - Amateur Extra

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

BVARC Historical Vignettes – The Imperial Sugar Company and BVARC

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

Many of us were saddened when the Imperial Sugar Company's refinery located along Hwy 90A was demolished on December 19, 2010 to make way for a stadium for the Sugar Land Skeeters minor league baseball team. The 7,500-square foot stadium will double as a concert venue, and it is expected that admission to games and events will cost \$8 per seat. The new stadium is scheduled to open in April 2012, and the Skeeters already have a website at <http://www.sugarlandskeeters.com/index.cfm>.

In addition to the stadium, the new development will also include residences, business properties and park land. The historic landmark building associated with Imperial Sugar, the red brick char house, will remain on the property and it, along with other historic elements from the site, have been incorporated into the redevelopment plans.

The city of Sugar Land was named after the Imperial Sugar Company and its refinery, commonly called the Sugar Mill by many of the local residents. According to Wikipedia, Imperial Sugar was founded in 1843 by Samuel Williams and passed through a series of owners until its purchase in 1907 by the Kemper family of Galveston. Since its inception, the company has been headquartered in Sugar Land; and the company's crown logo is featured in the city's seal. In January 2001, Imperial Sugar filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, attributing its problems to lower sales for refined sugar as well as higher energy costs. Later in the year the company emerged from bankruptcy and turned its focus on downsizing its operations to remain profitable. The company closed the Sugar Mill in 2003 but kept their corporate headquarters in Sugar Land.

The Sugar Mill played an important roll in the early history of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club. One of the very first things BVARC did after it was founded in 1977 was to start a Monday evening Emergency Net on two meters. This net was the forerunner of today's BVARC Public Service Net. From 1977 through July 1980, this net was held Monday evening at 9 pm on the 146.16/.76 MHz Sugar Land Repeater located on the Sugar Mill. Club records do not indicate who owned and maintained the repeater on the Sugar Mill, but BVARC was given permission to use the repeater for the club's Monday evening net.

In August 1980 a repeater with wider coverage became available. The net was moved to the Cypress Repeater Group (CRG) 147.60/.00 MHz repeater on Dewalt Tower at an elevation of 1549 feet above sea level. Dewalt Tower was also the tower for TV channels 2, 11 & 39. The CRG repeater had an output of 2.5 watts providing coverage within a 50-mile radius of the tower.

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club began holding its monthly general membership meetings at the Sugar Land Community Center in June 1991. The June 1991 club newsletter contained a map showing the new meeting location and most prominent on the map was a building labeled **Imperial Sugar Company**. When we talk-in new members and visitors to the general membership meeting we can no longer say "Take Brooks Street south off Hwy 90A in front of the Sugar Mill." Will we get used to turning onto Brooks Street in front of the Skeeters Stadium? Will we have a traffic jam if the Skeeters have an evening ball game on the second Thursday of the month? Change is inevitable.



BVARC "Under 15" CW Net Tuesday 7PM

Join us for a fun filled 30 to 45 minutes of working the CW mode. The 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 Station (NCS) 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>

Join in or just have a listen, but do get on the air and have some fun with CW.

(**Note:** we might be going back to 80 meters in February, just to keep it interesting. Stay tuned to the BVARC Reflector and the weekly nets for the latest happenings.)

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>

1/14/ & 1/15, 2011 Cowntown Hamfest

Lockheed Martin Recreation Area
3400 Bryant Irvin Road
Ft. Worth, TX 76109

<http://www.cowntownhamfest.com/>

01/22/2011 | San Antonio Amateur Radio Fiesta

Location: Schertz, TX

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: San Antonio Radio Club

Website: <http://w5sc.org>

3/5/2011 Greater Houston Hamfest.

ARRL South Texas Convention

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





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

VOLUME 35, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2011

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

Annual Banquet – January 14
No General Membership Meeting in January

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