



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2011

VOLUME 35 ISSUE 2

BVARC FEBRUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7:30 PM, Thursday, February 10, 2011

Eldridge Park Community Center, Sugar Land, Texas

ARRISat-1 – AMSAT's Newest Satellite



Our featured speaker for February will be Allen N5AFV with a presentation entitled "ARRISat-1 – AMSAT's Newest Satellite." ARRISat-1 (formerly known as SuitSat II) is currently at the Baikonur Cosmodrome awaiting a January 28, 2011 launch to the ISS on a Progress rocket. The satellite is currently scheduled to be deployed from the ISS during an EVA on February 21, 2011. Come and learn all about this newest satellite and what you can do to contact it when it's "live".

ARRISat-1 is the cover story for the February QST magazine, and it was also the cover story last month in the AMSAT Journal.



January Meeting Report

If you missed the Annual BVARC Banquet on January 14, you missed some great food (from the appetizers and Italian buffet to great dessert selections), a great keynote speaker, and great camaraderie. The keynote speech by Dr. Jim Siebert, KC5TIN, head of the Channel 26 Weather, focused on what can go wrong with the weather...or more accurately...the crazy things people do as weather unfurls around them.

After the door prize drawing for some really nice prizes ranging from a 40m dipole to \$25 gift cards, Rick W5RH made several presentations to club members including the two big awards from BVARC:

- Loop & Zepp Award for 2011 was awarded to Tom W5TOM
- Order of the Key Award for 2011 was awarded to Eddie NU5K

Congratulations to Tom and Eddie for their outstanding contributions to the club and to Amateur Radio!

And, thanks to Rick W5RH for organizing a truly memorable event!



BVARC GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST - MARCH 5.

We are coming down the stretch for the Hamfest. For details, go to: www.houstonhamfest.org
If you haven't volunteered to participate, contact Rick Hiller, W5RH or John Chauvin, K5IZO.

President's Corner

By Rick Hiller – W5RH

A Good Time is being had by all – maybe

If you missed the BVARC Banquet you missed a good one. The Marriott was at the perfect venue, the food was excellent (and abundant) and the guest speaker, Jim, KC5TIN, was fun also. The awardees for the annual BVARC awards were Eddie Runner, NU5K, for the Order of the Key and Tom Morton, W5TOM, for the Loop and Zepp Award. Congratulations gentlemen. Also, Robert Polanski, KD5YVQ, and John, K5IZO, were honored with a personalized BVARC coffee mug for their services to the club – specifically in the marketing department of web site and the newsletter, respectively. They both have done, and continue to do, outstanding work on behalf of the club and all of our 174 members. Yes, you read correctly, 174 MEMBERS! I, also, presented the 2010 Board of Directors with their own personalized coffee mugs, as a token of my gratitude. BVARC is a large organization with logistics, accounting and legal issues to attend to month by month. No one person can do it all, so it is really nice to have a board consisting of active members that really want the club to succeed. See the pictures of all of these banquet activities on the web page -- click the 'Awards Banquet Photos 2011' link to see the pictures of the festivities. Thanks to all that came out to the Marriott, as you all made it a great evening.

So, with 2010 in the rear view mirror, it is time to look toward the horizon and see what's up for this year. A great meeting presentation agenda is planned by Kirk, KK2Z, our VP, with some really important "hands-on" topics (continuing on with what we have done this year, but more so). Please, keep up with BVARC happenings every month by reading the newsletter or watching the always dynamic web site. All of the latest BVARC news will be on the web site as soon as it is known. Along with the meetings, our normal run of yearly events will also take place at the proper times. The first being the Greater Houston Hamfest – March 5, 2011. This will be the 10th Annual get together that BVARC has put on. Every year gets better and better. This year will be no exception – just look at the great Raffle prizes. Top prize is an \$1800 Flex 3000 Software Defined Radio. Buy your tickets for a chance to win this great radio. Volunteer a slice of your time at the Hamfest. Later in the year we have the Museum Ships Weekend, Field Day, Texas QSO Party and other events which will be highlighted as the year goes on. Stay tuned and stay informed.

Now, let's talk about welcoming new Hams, new members and visitors to the club meetings. A few critical e-mails were floating around on the BVARC reflector this past month. Most noted that "we", the general Ham community, did not do enough to welcome new hams in to the fold of the hobby. To be bluntly honest, specifically concerning BVARC – Horse Hockey! This club does an excellent job of welcoming guests, new hams and new members. If you research the BVARC reflector archives, you will see my note of January 12, 2011 addressing this issue in full, from BVARC's perspective. I will summarize here: 1) At our meetings we do a standing roll call and acknowledge any new comer or visitor, ham or non-ham. We always have a club table where there are newsletters, tri-fold flyers and someone to answer questions and hand out membership application forms. 2) Our web site – www.bvarc.org – lists the contact names, numbers and e-mails of all of the officers. We also give complete info about the meetings, nets, other activities, etc. 3) There have been quite a few new hams, and non-Hams, that have contacted me directly (due to the info on the web site) and they have been assigned a club Elmer contact to help them out. They are now members and now on the air. (Reference the work of W5TOM our Loop and Zepp'er for 2010). Many other hams have been helped with equipment and antennas, etc. by other, volunteering, BVARC members. 4) BVARC VEC's hold a once a month testing session, which we publicize to the whole ham community. Every person that takes a test with the BVARC VEC gets an invitation or congratulations letter (if they are a member) and a BVARC tri-fold info flyer sent to them, once their call signs are in the FCC database, that is. This is a task performed monthly by our Corresponding Secretary. 5) We are continually, through our nets, the web site and the newsletter welcoming new hams, also telling the club about the new members that just joined, or the new "Life Members". We promote all our events and invite all hams, especially the neophytes, onto the repeater nets or HF nets or to come out to the operating event stations, etc.

However, with all that we do, I am sure a few slip through the cracks. One way to avoid this is, if you are a visitor or new Ham or know that a person is a new Ham or visitor, introduce yourself, or introduce them to the guy that runs the meeting (me) or any of the officers or other members, for that matter. We will see to it that you are introduced properly and welcomed. Please, take that first step. We are all Hams, we have all been the novice, the neophyte, the unknowing, but we stuck with it and learned bit by bit and we truly want others to have the same success (and fun) that we have had. BVARC is a hard working, fun club and I ask all BVARC members to keep their eyes out for those elusive visitors and newly licensed hams hanging out in the dark corners of our meeting halls (hi). Go and shake their hand.

Until next month, see you at the meetings, on the repeaters, the nets and at the operating events. Maybe we can make it to the point real soon that a good time is had by all that participate. Enjoy your hobby. See you on the radio.

Rick – W5RH (dit dit)



Minutes of January 6th, 2011 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 7:05 PM on January 6th, 2011 at Fudrucker's, 11445 Fountain Lake Drive, Stafford, TX. Attending were: Rick Hiller, W5RH (Pres.); Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z (V.P.); Arnold Knoche, K5ADA (Treas.); Bob Tomlinson, N5JSL (Cor. Sec.); Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.); Bill Stone, WS5H (1yr At-Large Dir.); Ross Lawler, W5HFF (2yr At-Large Dir.); Eddie Runner, NU5K (Webmaster); Suzanne Runner, KF5GWZ; Norma Stone, KE5NDN; Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; John Chauvin, K5IZO (Newsletter Editor); Charles Frost, K5LBU; David Bogart, N5EMG; Mike Hardwick, N5VCX; David Barber, K5NDB; Scott McKee, NT5SM; and Holly McKee, KW5WOU.

- 1) Minutes for the December 2011 meeting were approved as previously distributed by email and as appears in the January 2011 newsletter.
- 2) Treasurer's Report was presented to and approved by the Board.
- 3) Old Business:
 - a) Asset List: Runner said that he has received a meager response regarding where property is located.
 - b) Banquet: Hiller said that 49 reservations had been received to date. Featured speaker had confirmed and AV equipment had been secured.
 - c) Greater Houston Hamfest: The "All Hands Meeting" is scheduled for 7:00PM, January 20th at Hiller's work place.
 - d) 2011 Hamcom: Hiller said he now is not able to attend and is asking another board member(s) to go and represent BVARC. Dates are June 3rd, 4th & 5th.
- 4) New business:
 - a) Knoche said that BVARC has received 10-10 International Certificates.
 - b) Hiller showed a catalogue, discovered by Runner, from Hamthreads, a vendor of ham related apparel. Runner volunteered to scan some of catalogue and post to web site.
- 5) Schedule:
 - a) Kendrick reminded members that the February meeting is about Satellite Comminations.
 - b) Kendrick said to the board his thinking that several future meetings should each specialize on a different operating mode.
- 6) Other Business:
 - a) Mitchell commented that when Brier posts to the BVARC list server, there is generated a large number of alerts. Runner said that this is caused because many of his posts also go to other list servers and the security measures detect that and issue alerts. There appears to be little to be done about the matter.
- 7) 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:

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
 1/3 - 31 - Cam, k5cam
 1/10 - 38 - Clint, kf5hdf
 1/17 - 29 - Dwayne, kb5yta
 1/24 - 29 - Pete, kd5qpx



River Oaks Car Stereo

4129 Richmond (near Wesleyan) 713-626-7627
Houston, Texas 77027
ALINCO - DIAMOND Dealer

Car Stereo-Car Alarms-Ham Radio-Radar Detectors-Police Scanners- Bluetooth Hands Free
Phone Kits-IPOD Integration-Emergency Strobe Lights
Let Us Install Your Mobile Ham Gear



GRE-LARSEN-ARIES-CHANNELMASTER
Eddie -NU5K- Dwayne - KB5YTA
Russell - KE5YYT- Eddie Jr-KB5OBB
Patricia -KE5YYV- Suzanne -KF5GWZ

www.riveroakscarstereo.com

www.installer.com

HAM RADIO IS BACK IN HOUSTON AGAIN!



BVARC ROSTER: Submitted by Eddie Runner, NU5K.

In the past the BVARC roster was kept by someone somewhere on paper or someone's personal computer and occasionally passed out or visible by our members, I think the roster may have even been published in the club newsletter once or twice long ago. Now the complete up to date BVARC roster and even some of the historical roster (expired members and silent keys) is viewable online on the website. www.bvarc.org. The roster is pretty much real time, we enter the information from new members or renewals or call sign changes or what have you, right into the database and it is viewable online right away, the website calculates the dates so it reminds you in color that a member is about to expire or has expired... It even has a clickable link on expired member that takes the member to the membership renewal page of the website. How EZ is that? The roster is searchable by Call Sign, first or last name, email, street city or zip, even by phone number, and the results are sort able in a table by last name, callsign, address, phone, email, membership expiration date, or license class just by clicking the column headers.... You can even do a search by part of a name or part of a call. That guys call was K something htb, simple, just type in htb and every call with htb in it will pop up on the screen... Or you met a BVARCER at breakfast named Bob but can't remember his call, simply search for Bob and all the Bobs will pop right up... All the call signs of the members listed are linked to the QRZ web site, just click on the call sign... Qrz.com gives the FCC information on that call sign as well as a google map to where their station is located. Qrz.com also gives us some free space where we can post photos of our stations and a little bio about ourselves.. Pretty cool, everyone should take advantage of this great deal.. The BVARC roster allows us to see where each other lives, you can see who your neighbors are! And of course if you click on the email address it makes an email to that person.. Member status is even displayed in color, GREEN for bvarc life members, BLUE for a normal yearly membership, ORANGE for expired memberships and GRAY for our silent Key buddies... So use it!



RESULTS OF THE JANUARY 11 BVARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION

by: John Moore, KK5NU

-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, January 11, 2011 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

Six examination elements were administered during the evening to four applicants. One new Technician and two new General class licenses were attained; with the total number of elements passed being 5. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 83.33%.

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

Henry L. Berry, Jr. - {KF5JMC} - General
Mark A. Knight - {KF5JMB} - Technician
Christopher G. Schmidt - {KF5JMD} - 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 Science & Technology Building for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

..... 73



THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

January check-ins

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

12/29/10, K5LKJ (NCS), WS5H, N5NVP (Scott, LA), N5CPA, K5CEK, W5TKZ, K5NDB, AF5T, AA5OA, K5LJ, W55RJA (T) (Round Rock), K5IZO, W5TOM, K0NM, KC0NYK (Elk Falls, KS), (16 Check-Ins)

01/05/11, K5LKJ (NCS), WS5H, KC5JAR (Katy), WA5CYI, K5CEK, KD5RGT (Brookhaven, MS), AF5T, WA5JMC, W5TKZ, K5LJ, K5IZO, W5HFF (M), N5CPA, KD5O, AA5OA, K5NDB, K0NM, WB5PNL (Beach City), K5LBU, KK2Z, KE5OBY (R), KF5CTC, WA5FMK. (23 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle: SFI= 88, A= 2, K= 1, SN= 54

1/12/11, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, AF5T, KE5UTN (West Monroe, LA), KC5JAR (Katy), WA5CYI, N5CPA, K5NDB, W5HFF (M), W5TKZ, K5LJ, W5TOM, K5IZO, AA5OA, WB5PNL (Beach City), WS5H, W5RW. (16 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle: SFI= 80, A= 7, K= 2, SN= 26

1/19/11, K5LKJ (NCS), WA5CYI, K5CEK, AF5T, K5LBU, W5TKZ, K5NDB, N5CPA, K5LJ, K5IZO, W5TOM, K5CAM, WN5A, KE5OBY, WS5H, N5TGL, W3DGE, AA5OA, WB5PNL (Beach City), KC5JAR (Katy), K0NM, N7INO (Bastrop, LA), KD5YOU, KF5HEB. (24 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle: SFI= 81, A= 7, K= 1, SN= 28

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

Thanks. Regards., John C. Whiteman

BVARC Historical Vignettes

BVARC Newsletters as a Key to Appreciating BVARC's Past

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

A number of BVARC members have asked me where I find material for the Historical Vignettes. I became a member of BVARC in 1985 when the club was in its ninth year, so I have no personal knowledge of the club's earliest years. However, a number of the founding members were still active in the club and I heard them tell many stories about the early years of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club. My major source of historical information about BVARC consists of club newsletters, and over the years the club leadership has been to assemble a collection of all newsletters published by the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club. These newsletters are now available on the club's website for anyone to read. This is an amazing accomplishment for a 33-year-old club, so if you are interested in history take advantage of the opportunity and look at some of the past newsletters.

I have saved every BVARC newsletter I received since joining the club in September 1985. The club was formed in September 1977 and the first newsletter was published in March 1978. It was difficult to locate newsletters from 1978 through September 1985, but BVARC members past and present came through. The majority of these newsletters came from past editor Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG, who had passed them on to Larry Levy, WD5DRB, who had also been a newsletter editor for the club. Several years ago Larry brought the newsletters to a club meeting and Rick Hiller, W5RH, accepted them for club and spent countless hours scanning them into pdf files. From March 1978 through December 2010 there were 360 newsletters published by the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, and all of them are now available on the club's website.

During December 2010, a number of club members participated in what was called the "BVARC Newsletters - History Project." Major participants were president Rick Hiller, W5RF, past editor Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, club historian Allen Mattis, N5AFV, and club webmaster Eddie Runner, NU5K. The group worked together to put digital copies of all BVARC newsletters onto the club website. It was a truly significant accomplishment.

We are greatly appreciative of the following club members who donated newsletters that were used in the project – Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG, Larry Levy, WD5DRB, Claude Sessions, K5HFY, and Bud King, K5CEK: Other club members such as past editor Irv Smith, KK5QQ, offered to donate their newsletters if we needed them. The point to make here is that many BVARC members came forward when they realized what was needed. That is one of the reasons why BVARC is such a great club.

If you ever have a little spare time and find your self on the BVARC website check out the newsletters from the past. Our club has an interesting and very rich past that we can all be proud of.



BVARC "Under 15" CW Net

Tuesday 7PM

Note: Changing Frequency for all of February – 3.550 MHz

Join us for a fun filled 30 to 45 minutes of working the CW mode. WE NEED MORE NEW PEOPLE TO CHECK IN! 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-ambles...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 **3.550 MHz**. We'll see what difference 80 Meters makes to the check-in count. We are hoping stations a bit further out will be able to check-in

Listen to a sample pre-ambles (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 some slow speed CW.

2011 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>

Orange Hamfest 2011 02/26/2011

VFW Hall Post # 2775
5303 16th Street (Highway 87 North)
Orange, TX 77630

Website: <http://www.qsl.net/w5nd/>

Sponsor: Orange ARC & Jefferson County ARC

Talk-In: 147.180 (no tone)

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

HamExpo – Belton. April 2. More details forthcoming.

HamCom & ARRL National Convention, Plano, TX. June 10. More
details forthcoming.





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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FEBRUARY 2011

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

BVARC General Membership Meeting – February 10, Eldridge Park Community Center

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