



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2011

VOLUME 35 ISSUE 9

BVARC SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7:30 PM, Thursday, August 11, 2011

226 Matlage Way Community Center, Sugar Land, Texas

Please be aware that the September meeting will be the last in the Community Center -- future meeting information will be posted on the BVARC Website (www.bvarc.org) and in the newsletter.

The September meeting will focus on a different variant on amateur radio operations – Radio Direction Finding. Thomas KT5TK will cover the basics of “Foxhunting” (that is, Radio Direction Finding) – demonstrating the equipment required, examples of “foxes” (small transmitters) that are hidden for location. The presentation will culminate in an actual Fox Hunt in the meeting room!



August Meeting Report

If you missed the August Annual Ice Cream Social, you missed a great selection of Blue Bell including all the calories and sprinkles everyone could consume. We had a large selection of significant others present (XYLs and “better halves”). During the eating, the BLT-26 balloon launch video was shown along with photo slideshows for other BVARC events this year.

Many, many thanks to our organizers -- Ross W5HFF and Rick W5RH.



Amateur Radio – Astronomy Day Event – Oct. 8.

The Houston Museum of Natural Science has once again allowed BVARC to participate in Astronomy Day at George Observatory. This is located in the Brazos Bend State Park, roughly 20+ miles generally south of Sugar Land. This is a golden opportunity to show the synergy of amateur radio with amateur astronomy. BVARC will set up various station(s) and demos on the observing deck at the observatory. Last year, 2950 people attended. Keep in mind that this is a select segment of society that went out of their way to see something science related (amateur astronomy). The exact amateur radio program is evolving, so check the website toward the middle of September. A complete article, with maps and/or directions, will be included in the October BVARC newsletter. Mark your calendars and participate, whether it be for an hour or all day. Contact Kirk Kendrick or John Chauvin if you wish to seize this opportunity.

President's Corner

By Rick Hiller – W5RH

2011 -- T Minus 4 (Months) and Counting

Wow, it's already September and not soon enough for some of us, weather wise. We definitely have a major change in the weather to look forward to. Cooler temperatures mean a few things to us Gulf Coastal Hams. Antenna system work, for sure, is the #1 priority. It will be cool enough to get outside to service your antenna farm. Get busy replacing those UV/weathered support ropes, re-solder/re-tighten/re-weatherproof all of your antenna system's connections, replace that old coax with something newer and lower loss, or put up an antenna for another band. Fall is a time for good propagation, lower band noise and contesting, so get ready!

For the club, September means a look toward the end of the year, with just 4 more meetings. Counting backward, the Homebrew meeting in December, the Chili Supper meeting in November, then October with "Understanding and Operating Your HF Transceiver", by me, and to start with this month "**Foxhunting Techniques**" by Thomas, KT5TK, on September 8th. Some really cool technical programs and a few great social nights for everyone to learn more about the hobby and the fellow Hams that we enjoy talking about and talking to, respectively. Don't forget to pay attention to the meeting places each month, as they will move around a smidge with the closing of the normal meeting place, the Sugar Land Community Center. (See Kirk's announcement in this newsletter about meeting places).

Speaking of the year moving by fast, it is not too soon to think about the BVARC officer elections in November. We will be electing a President (my replacement), the Recording Secretary, the Treasurer, two At-Large members of the board and, of course, eating chili. Think back to the Presidents Corner columns over the past 18 months. In most, I have mentioned the folks in the club that provide their services and also volunteer their time and expertise. I have also asked that you look into yourself and see if you can find the time to volunteer your time and services to assist us in running the BVARC organization. For some positions it is a fair amount of work. And for others it is at most two nights per month and that's it. Respond to a few e-mails and you have a board level position that has voting authority, but a very low level of responsibility. Certainly, a great way to get started within the BVARC hierarchy. Now, I am not talking about you running for President (unless you want to). That is a busy position, along with Vice-President, as V.P. takes care of and coordinates the meetings' technical talks, eating agenda and AV gear coordination. The V.P. deals with outside technical talkers/presenters and coordinates the "volunteering" of their time for the benefit of BVARC. (If you ever wonder why sometime the meeting topic changes at the last minute, please refer to the last sentence – "volunteering of time". Our speakers are not paid. They are booked in, for sure, only when they show up at our meetings.) Besides all of the hard work, the V.P. position is a fun one to have.

So, think about it – SERIOUSLY. You have 2 months to decide to run. Ask questions of the current Board members about their position, what it takes, what the responsibilities are, etc. They are all listed in the newsletter on the header page. Find out which one is right for you. It would be nice to have a real election with more than one candidate for each office. It is not going to hurt anyone's feelings if you run and beat that other person. They are not going to go away. They will continue to give back to the club, as they have in the past. It is very nice to work with the dedicated folks on the current board. Kirk, Pete, Arnold, Bob, Bill, Dwayne and Ross all do a bang up job within their positions, and outside of their positions, as members of the club. Bill runs Museum ships, Dwayne coordinated the making of the BVARC flag, for example. Run for office, get infected with the BVARC spirit and come have some fun.

Fun is why we do Ham Radio and we have a few new and a few renewing members to welcome. Paul, KF5MJJ, is a new Ham and a new member. Ralph, KL7AX and Cody, AE5YY are also new to the club. Welcome! Renewing members are Bob, N5JSL; Roy, W5TKZ; Bill, W5RJA; Travis, K5HTB; Scott, NT5SM and David N5GDW. Many thanks to all of these Hams, new or old.

A couple more activities to note at this time of the year are the Texas QSO Party (<http://txqp.net/>) on the September 24th/25th weekend and the Belton Hamfest (<http://www.beltonhamexpo.org/>) on October 1st. Check them out and have some more fun. Let's hope the bands improve, the weather gets a lot cooler and the chili is cooked a lot hotter, as we count down our way to the end of 2011.

See you on the radio. Enjoy your hobby. 73....Rick – W5RH (dit dit)



TEXAS QSO PARTY, Sept 24 & 25

The Texas QSO Party takes place the last weekend of this month, Sept. 24 and 25. Whether you go mobile, like Kirk and Pete did last year, KK5W, were portable. Like several BVARCers were or operated at home like many others did, spend at least a few hours during TQP to enjoy yourself. For more details, go to: <http://txqp.net/>

SOUTH TEXAS BALLOON LAUNCH – BLT 27

Submitted by Andy MacAllister, W5ACM

On December 8, 1990, the soon-to-be-called South Texas Balloon Launch Team (BLT) launched their first amateur-radio balloon from the Huntsville Municipal Airport. The payload was a simple, handcrafted affair including a custom two-meter-FM transmitter and a telemetry system for temperature data sent as audio tones. Estimates showed that the balloon may have risen to over 100,000 feet until burst. It took over 28 hours to locate the package high in a tree in a private game preserve near Tomball. It was a grand experiment and has inspired many flights since.

BLT-27 The Flight of the TOYZ

Nearly 21 years after the flight of BALLOON-1, we flew BLT-27 on August 20, 2011. We had five autonomous payloads full of curiosities, thus the name Flight of the TOYZ. Subassemblies from previous flights were distributed in the payload string, and new experiments were created specifically for the event. We have learned a lot over the previous two decades, but there are always issues associated with sending things into the hostile environment at the Edge of Space. The final results though were excellent, and everyone involved did a fantastic job to make the flight TOYZ happen.

The complete list of payloads can be seen at <http://www.w5acm/b27.html>. The list of things that worked and support organizations and individuals that made it all happen is quite long. Planning for a launch begins several months in advance. The BLT group identifies projects worthy of pursuit. New devices are either purchased or developed for the flight. Consumables like batteries, balloons and helium are located and purchased with money from donations and the sale of T-shirts and DVDs. Flight gear is tested, packaged and then retested. A launch facility is secured and coordination with the FAA is established. All of this happens long before the launch. A few days before the target flight date, weather and flight ground-track predictions are initiated.

For BLT-27 we were once again invited to Hanger 31 at the Wharton Municipal Airport by SkyTrails CEO Fredrick Scheffel. It is the perfect venue for our balloon launch campaign on the south side of what we call the Wharton Intergalactic Spaceport. The name was inspired by an article in the July 27, 1994, Wharton Journal Spectator about a BLT launch. The title was "Wharton's Own Space Probe".

A key donation for BLT-27 came from BVARC. It paid for all of our flight batteries and helium, and was GREATLY appreciated. Many of the BLT crew are members of BVARC, and now many BVARC members are participants in the BLT. The BLT re-mailer sign-up page is <http://lists.stevens.com/mailman/listinfo>.

Our FAA contact from a number of previous flights, Mike W5MAB did not have time this year to take on the task of coordinating with the government folks. Chris WB5ITT stepped up at the 11th hour and handled the job like a pro. Our seasoned balloon handler John WA5WOD was informed that he would be attending a wedding in Palestine Texas on flight day, so Darrell KC5JAR learned that job without fanfare when he was finished working with Charlie K5ENG gassing up the balloon. It didn't phase Darrell that this was the largest group of individual payloads ever attempted by the BLT on a single balloon.

The two-meter to 70-cm FM cross-band link is always a hit. There was some interference issues at times during the flight, but the QSO count and coverage was stellar. This year we also had a two-meter FM to six-meter AM "remote-controlled station". It acted like a cross-band repeater and was a vast improvement over the two-meter FM to ten-meter DSB unit used for the prior two flights. The new six-meter AM transmitter only has two active components - an oscillator IC and a power transistor, but produces high-quality AM with 400 mW output. It will be flown again.

A true curiosity for BLT-27 was the solar-powered ten-meter CW beacon with over 400 mW output. It sent temperature and power output telemetry for the duration of the flight and was heard as far away as Georgia. Another delight was the 70-cm parrot repeater package that also sent voice GPS telemetry and Martin-2 format SSTV images from the down-looking integral camera. The parrot repeater would listen for 36 seconds, send what was heard, speak the telemetry and transmit the picture. In its spare time prior to a memory fault, it also recorded video files from the camera. Thomas KT5TK turned this Android phone into an incredible ham TOY connected to a mini 70-cm transceiver.

Four payloads had some form of GPS system. Two were operational for the whole flight. The still camera by Pete KD5ELH on the main payload took over 1300 high-resolution photos, over 400 of which were fabulous flight shots

from launch to landing. The live video system had problems but the on-board HD recorder from Tom K5SAF got over four hours of fantastic video and even recorded conversations on the way back to Hinze's BBQ from the "crash" site. The High-Speed-Multi-Media MESH team with AG5RS, K5SAF, KK2Z and KT5TK made significant strides with flight gear and ground equipment, but have more experiments to get this art reclassified as a science.

BLT-27 cooperated with its landing site this year, i.e. it stayed away from freeways, big trees, lakes and rivers. The chase team with folks like NU5K, KF5GWX, AD5SS, W2CVZ, N5PTN, N5MT and AB5SS make the chore of finding the balloon and payloads look easy and fun. Be sure to check photos at <http://www.bvarc.org/photos.php?year=2011&event=blt> and also AB5V's site <http://www.texasradiozone.com>. We didn't have enough helium for a second balloon to fly the 900-MHz ATV, RC plane by N5RPQ, W5BSA and WA5F, but they had some great hand-launched flights from the SkyTrails hanger. The audio beeper worked fine, once we were reminded to turn it on... To The Edge of Space!



Editor's Note: Plenty photos are on the BVARC website under "Club Event Photos."

**THE BVARC Rag Chew Net
August check-ins**

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

07/27/11, K5LKJ (NCS), AF5T, WS5H, K5CEK, K5NDB, N5CPA, W5TKZ, K5LJ, W5HFF (M) (Houston), AA5OA, AE5YY, W5RH, N5DTT, K5IZO, WB5PNL (Beach City), WA5FMK, WB5VWB, KE5OBY, KA5MEI, KC5JAR (Katy). (20 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 94, SN = 94, A = 5, K = 2

08/03/11, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, AE5YY, W5TKZ, W5HFF (M)(R)(Houston), W5TOM, N5CPA, KA5MEI, K5LJ, AF5T, WS5H, W5RH, AA5OA, KC5JAR (Katy), KE5OBY, N5VXU (T). (14 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 122, SN = 98, A = 4, K = 3

08/10/11, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, N5CPA, W5TKZ, W5RH, K5NDB, K5LJ, WB5VYR, WS5H, K0NM, W5TOM, K5IZO, N5XWB, WB5PNL (Beach City), WA5CYI, AA5OA, W5RJA, W5RJA (T) (Round Rock), AF5T, W5HFF (M) (Houston), KD5QPX.
(19 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 92, SN = 54, A = 10, K = 1

08/17/11, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, K5LBU, K5CAM/5 (P)(Cat Springs), W5TKZ, K5NDB, WS5H, N5CPA, K5IZO/5 (P)(Jasper), K5LJ, NT5SM, AA5OA, N5DTT, K0NM, KE5OBY, WA5CYI, W5RH, WB5PNL (Beach City), N5TGL (Fulshear), W5RJA (T) (Round Rock), KB5VTB, W5LPD (Katy), W5HFF (M) (Houston). (17 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 99, SN = 26, A = 8, K = 1

08/24/11, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, WS5H, N5CPA, W5TKZ, K5LJ, AA5OA, K0NM, W5RH, K5NDB, WB5PNL (Beach City), N5DTT, W5TOM, W55RJA (T) (Round Rock). 14 Check-Ins

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 103, SN = 81, A = 7, K = 2

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

Thanks, Regards, John C. Whiteman



**BVARC “Under 15” CW Net
Tuesday 7PM
3.550 MHz**

Submitted by Rick Hiller, W5RH

Join us for a fun filled 30 to 45 minutes of working the CW mode. We welcome the new folks with open arms, so join us.

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, then the 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, but some nights WS5H, Bill, or others take over, so listen carefully right at 7 PM.

Frequency is on **3.550 MHz**. 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.

August 16th was our 1 year anniversary!

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HAM RADIO IS BACK IN HOUSTON AGAIN!



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:

5/16 - 23 - Dwayne, kb5yta
5/30 - 25 - Sid,n5zkd
6/6 - 42 - Cam, k5cam
6/13 - 25 - Clint, kd5hdf
6/20 - 32 - Dwayne, kb5yta

5/23 - 31 - Pete, kd5qpx
6/27 - 37 - Cam, k5cam
7/4 - 23 - Cam, k5cam
7/11 - 33 - Clint, kd5hdf
7/18 - 45 - Dwayne, kb5yta

7/25 - 44 - Pete, kd5qpx
8/1 - 46 - Cam, k5cam
8/8 - 29 - Clint, kd5hdf
8/15 - 28 - Dwayne, kb5yta
8/22 - 37 - Pete, kd5qpx



RESULTS OF THE AUGUST 9th BVARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION
BVARC Amateur License Examination Session
By: John Moore, KK5NU

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, August 9, 2011 at HCC's Scarcella Science & Technology Building 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 two applicants. One new General license was attained; with the total number of elements passed being 2. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 66.67%.

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

Anthony P. Marriott - {KF5MJJ} - 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.

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Minutes of the July and the August 2011 Board Meetings:
Minutes of July 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 7:12 PM on July 7th, 2011 at Fudrucker's, 11445 Fountain Lake Drive, Stafford, TX. Attending were: Rick Hiller, W5RH (Pres.); Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z (V.Pres); Bill Stone, WS5H (1yr At-Large Dir.); Dwayne Jones, KB5YTA (2 yr At-Large Dir.); Ross Lawler, W5HFF (2 Yr. At-Large Dir.); Eddie Runner, NU5K (Webmaster); Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; Suzanne Runner, KF5GWZ; Norma Stone, KE5NDN; Charles Frost, K5LBU; David Barber, K5NDB; David Beers, AF5T; John Chauvin, K5IZO; Angel Abbott-Jones, KC5KRV; Billy Jones, N5EVD.

- 1) Minutes for the June 2011 meeting were approved as previously distributed by email and appears in the August 2011 newsletter.
- 2) Treasurer's Report was presented to and approved by the Board. Comments on the Field Day expenses and questioned any unreported expenses. Some gas receipts still not submitted. Chauvin commented that we could project a deficit in the operating costs this year.
- 3) V.P Meeting Agenda Report – Kendrick reported that the Ice Cream Social for August will be held at the S.L. community Center. Ross, W5HFF, volunteered again and Rick Hiller also stepped up as a co-chair for this year. September and October meetings have E-QSL scheduled with alternatives of Fox Hunt/Direction Finding and HF Radio operation. November is Chili supper and December is Homebrew.
- 4) Old Business:
 - a) Life Membership: The "Family" Life membership was discussed and after review of the By-Laws it was

confirmed that the Life Membership is and should remain an "individual" designation. Family members under a Life Membership will be included in the club roster for \$2 per year, as per the By-Laws.

- b) Jones reported that the BVARC flag was being worked on by the flag shop and him.
 - c) Chauvin reported that the Wish List committee is still out, waiting for an ARRL memo of explanation of PAC and 501C3 donations.
 - d) MSWE report outlined the need for additional funds for QSL'ing. Stone was instructed to purchase the additional material and submit the receipts – under \$100.
 - e) Field Day discussion concerning the generation of Guide Lines for each station, type of radios used, what class to operate, GOTA station interference, competition mode versus enjoyment, marketing, socializing and public exposure.
- 5) New business:
- 5.1 Museum Ships Weekend -- Electronic Log Data Recovery effort was acknowledged. Hiller submitted to provide compensation to the company that successfully recovered the data. Discussion took place concerning paying for it versus volunteering services. Jones and Stone called for a vote to provide compensation in the form of a life membership to the member providing the data recovery. Passed 3 to 2.
 - 5.2 Board approved expenditure for 4 awards in the Texas QSO Party. Check will be sent when NO5W advises cost – approximate \$105.
- 6 Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

Submitted by President, Rick Hiller, W5RH (Recording Secretary absent)

Minutes of August 4th, 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 7:00 PM on August 4th, 2011 Fudrucker's, 11445 Fountain Lake Drive, Stafford, TX. Attending were Rick Hiller, W5RH (Pres.); Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z (V.P.); Bob Tomlinson, N5JSL (Cor. Sec.); Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.); Dwayne Jones, KB5YTA (2yr At-Large Dir.); Bill Stone, WS5H (1yr At-Large Dir.); Eddie Runner, NU5K (Webmaster); Norma Stone, KE5NDN; Sharon Tomlinson, KF5HUF; Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; John Chauvin, K5IZO (Newsletter Editor); Charles Frost, K5LBU; Mike Hardwick, N5VCX.

- 1) Minutes for the July 2011 meeting were distributed as hard-copy but not approved, they contained typographical errors. July minutes will again be submitted for approval at the September meeting.
- 2) Treasurer's Report was presented to and approved by the Board.
- 3) Old Business:
 - a) Life Membership: Hiller summarized board action on matter during the July meeting.
 - b) Texas QSO Party: BVARC will again sponsor the same awards as in 2010.
 - c) BVARC Flag: The 3x5ft BVARC flag has been delivered.
 - d) Future Meetings:
 - i) August: Ice Cream Social
 - ii) September: EQSL (possibly)
 - e) Wish List: The list of proposed club disbursements is waiting for a legal opinion from the ARRL regarding PAC and 501c3 organizations.
- 4) New business:
 - a) 2012 Greater Houston Hamfest: Kendrick stated that he has already received table requests.
 - b) Board Meetings Jones proposed making the board meetings closed to all but the board. His aim is to reduce the background conversations that interfere with the meeting. After discussion the board decided that meetings would remain open to all.
 - c) BL27 Balloon Launch: Hiller proposed that BVARC again contribute to the 2011 "BL27" balloon launch. The board decided to contribute \$200 towards helium and other supplies. Board approved funding.
 - d) Astronomy Day: George Observatory, October 8th; Chauvin and Kendrick are liaisons between BVARC and the astronomy club coordinating activities.
 - e) ARRL Insurance: Hiller stated that Hayse is the new liability provider for our liability insurance. Stone volunteered to analyze the club asset list to determine if there are any specific items that require insurance.
- 5) Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX

MSWE QSL CONFORMATION OF SHIP CONTACTS

MEMBERS WERE ASKING ABOUT MSWE QSL CONFORMATION OF SHIP CONTACTS

USS CAVALLA & USS STEWART KK5W SHIP CONTACT LIST 36 SHIPS

* = confirmed AS OF 8-25-11

K1USN	Watson Museum	6-5-11	20	ssb	16:17	5/9
*NB6GC	USS Hornet	6-5-11	20	ssb	22:59	5/9
*NI6IW	USS Midway	6-4-11	20	ssb	18:41	5/9
*W5LEX	USS LEX	6-4-11	40	ssb	01:08	5/9
WA4USN	USS Yorktown	6-4-11	40	ssb	16:03	5/9 -& - 6-4-11 20 13:34 5/9
*K6AA	ST-695 Angels Gate	6-4-11	15	ssb	19:40	5/5 -&- 6-4-11 20 22:42 5/9
NJ2BB	USS New Jersey	6-5-11	20	ssb	14:06	5/9
*N4WIS	USS Wisconsin	6-5-11	20	ssb	14:33	5/9
*NI4BK	USS North Carolina	6-4-11	15	ssb	16:50	5/7
*NA5DV	USS TEXAS	6-5-11	20	ssb	13:04	5/9
W6Z	USS Alabama	6-4-11	40	ssb	20:55	5/9 -&- 6-4-11 20 ssb 18:44 5/9
W6Z	USS Drum	6-4-11	40	ssb	20:55	5/9 -&- 6-4-11 20 ssb 18:44 5/9
WW2OK	USS Oklahoma Mast mem.	6-4-11	40	ssb	05:09	5/9
*W7TBC	USS Arizona Signal Mast mem.	6-4-11	20	ssb	21:00	5/9
*W8WBB	SS Willis B Boyer	6-4-11	20	ssb	14:57	5/9
NE6JP	USS Potomac	6-4-11	20	ssb	22:17	5/9
*WW2IND	Indi ca-35 mem.	6-5-11	20	ssb	17:55	5/9 -&- 6-4-11 40 ssb 04:25 5/9
*WA3BAT	USS Olympia	6-5-11	20	ssb	13:42	5/9
W2PE	USS Littlerock	6-4-11	20	ssb	14:40	5/9
*NS7DD	USS Turner Joy	6-4-11	20	ssb	00:15	5/9
*W5BII	USS Orleck	6-4-11	40	ssb	14:06	5/9
*K8CJQ	SS Keewatin	6-4-11	15	ssb	16:38	5/9
W6RO	RMS Queen Mary	6-5-11	40	ssb	05:07	5/7-&- 6-5-11 15 ssb 20:43
*KS8B	SS City of Milwaukee	6-4-11	20	ssb	14:59	5/9 -&- 6-4-11 20 ssb 12:36 5/9
N8SUB	USS Silversides	6-4-11	20	ssb	20:07	5/9
*NB9QV	USS Cobia	6-4-11	20	ssb	19:49	5/9 -&- 6-4-11 20 ssb 19:19 5/9
*W6LV	SS Lane Victory	6-4-11	20	cw	14:48	599
*W8COD	USS Cod	6-5-11	20	ssb	17:38	5/9
WW2SUB	USS Batfish	6-4-11	40	ssb	18:18	5/9
*NM1JY	USS Albacore	6-5-11	20	ssb	17:09	5/9
*VE3RCN	HCMS Haida	6-4-11	20	ssb	13:31	5/9
*W5KID	USS KID	6-4-11	40	ssb	16:00	5/9-&- 6-4-11 40 ssb 17:03 5/9
*W7BU L	S Columbia	6-4-11	20	ssb	20:58	5/9
*W8CDB	Carl D Bradley	6-5-11	20	ssb	15:35	5/9 -&- 6-4-11 20 ssb 19:11 5/9
*WW2LST	LST-325	6-4-11	40	ssb	21:13	5/3 -&- 6-4-11 20 ssb 20:55 5/9
*NJ6VT	USS Pampanito	6-4-11	20	ssb	22:10	5/9

25 Ships confirmed via return QSL

73 Bill WS5H BVARC QSL Manager



Understanding and Operating Your HF Transceiver

October 13th General Membership Meeting

NOTE: See meeting notice for September on page 1.

Our October 13th meeting will have a technical talk about using an HF transceiver entitled **“Understanding and Operating Your HF Transceiver”** by Rick, W5RH.

BVARC has been asked quite a few times over the last couple of years to do such a program. For you folks that are new to the hobby, please attend and find out just what function all those knobs and buttons control on the front, and rear, of your HF transceiver.

Tell your friends, neighbors and all of those non-BVARC members that they are invited to our October 13th meeting to listen to this informative presentation.

See you there



BVARC Historical Vignettes – The BVARC Public Service Net
Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

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. Back in the 1970s the use of the two meter band and FM repeaters was not as widespread as it is today and many amateur radio operators only had HF equipment. Nonetheless, BVARC's first net was established on two meters because use of that band was in keeping with the club's desire to focus on emergency preparedness and communications.

Over the years the BVARC Public Service Net has been held on many different repeaters, but it has always been held on Monday evening. The net currently meets at 8 pm local time on the 146.94 (167.9) repeater. The Public Service Net has always used a rotating schedule of net control operators. The hectic pace of check-ins during the initial portion of the net sometimes provides a challenge for the net control station, and our club owes a great deal to the net control stations who work very hard to keep our nets on the air.

BVARC newsletter editor Jackie Burton (now Jackie Moody) KC5OHJ instituted publication of the number of check-ins to the Public Service Net in the club newsletter in January 1996. Using the information from the newsletters I was able to assemble a database consisting of data from 705 sessions of the Public Service Net. The total number of check-ins for these nets was 18,337. The average number of check-ins for a session of the Public Service Net has been 26. The lowest number of check-ins for the Public Service Net was eight on both December 31, 2001 when Cameron Mitchell K5CAM called the net, and on May 16, 2005 when Joe Morgan K5JWM called the net. The highest number of check-ins for a session of the Public Service Net occurred March 4, 1996 when a total of 68 stations checked into the net; club records do not give the identity of the net control station for that net. It is quite possible that a higher number of check-ins to the Public Service Net occurred during the period 1990-1994 when club membership peaked at 270.

Figure 1 compares the average number of check-ins for the Rag Chew and Public Service Nets with the number of members in BVARC. Next month we will take an historical look at the BVARC Rag chew Net.

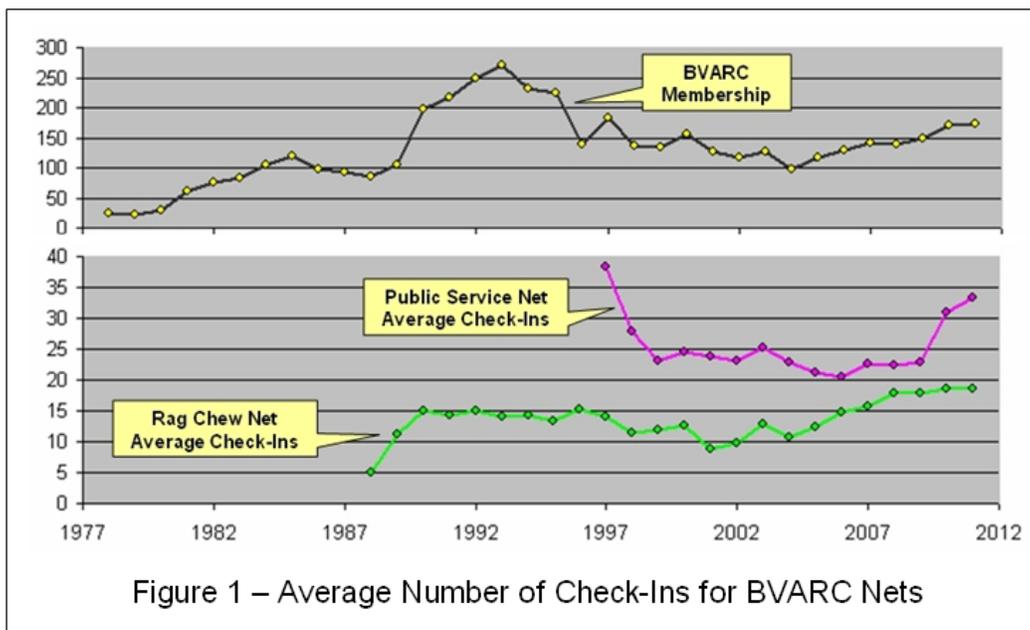


Figure 1 – Average Number of Check-Ins for BVARC Nets

2011 Club Officers:

President:

Rick Hiller, W5RH
rhiller@sdicgm.com

Vice President:

Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z
kmkendrick@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary

Robert Tomlinson
rbtswim@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Arnold Knoche, K5ADA
jakadaok@aol.com

Recording Secretary:

Pete Sauermilch, KD5QPX
kd5qpx@arrl.net

Board Member:

Dywane Jones, KB5YTA
dwayneredhonda@gmail.com

Board Member:

Ross Lawler, W5HFF
w5hff@yahoo.com

At Large Board Member

(One year – vs Past President):
Bill Stone, WS5H

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

See in adjacent column.

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, 7:00a.m., SW Freeway outbound service road, near
Kirkwood.

NEW YORK COFFEE & BAGEL SHOP, 7:30a.m., 9720 Hillcroft.

THURSDAYS BEFORE CLUB MEETINGS--6.15p.m.

VASOS BAR-B-Q, 9920 Hwy. 90-A, #D-120 on the SW corner of
US Hwy. 90-A and Dairy Ashford.

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 BAR-B-Q, 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>

HamEXPO 2011 – October 1

Bell County Expo Center
301 Loop 121, Belton, TX 76513

Website: <http://www.beltonhamexpo.org>

Sponsor: Temple Amateur Radio Club

Talk-In: 146.820- (PL 123.0)

[Lufkin Hamfest 2011 – October 22](#)

Lufkin First Church of the Nazarene - 1604 S. Medford Drive - Lufkin,
TX 75901.

Sponsor: Deep East Texas ARC & Nacogdoches ARC

Website: <http://www.lufkinhamfest.com>

[San Antonio Amateur Radio Fiesta – January 14, 2012](#)

Location: Schertz, TX

Sponsor: San Antonio Radio Club

Website: <http://w5sc.org>



EDITOR'S NOTE:

Because of the amount of material available and especially the inclusion of
the great timely article on the balloon launch (BLT-27), some articles had to
be reduced in size and other reference articles had to be delayed. For postage
costs reasons, the newsletter must consist of no more than 6 sheets.



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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

BVARC General Membership Meeting – September 8, Sugar Land Community Center
Texas QSO Party – September 24 & 25

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