



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

OCTOBER 2011

VOLUME 35 ISSUE 10

BVARC OCTOBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7:30 PM, Thursday, October 13, 2011

234 Matlage Way, Imperial Park Recreation Center, Sugar Land, Texas



Starting in October, the next 5+ meetings will be held at the Imperial Park Recreation Center that is just South of the Matlage Way Community Center (the former “standard” meeting spot for BVARC)

Our technical presentation for October will be “Understanding and Using an HF Transceiver” by our President Rick W5RH. This will be a hands-on presentation of the history, the architecture and the functions of the modern day HF transceiver. All radio controls will be explained -- telling why it is there, what it controls and the benefits of using it or not using it.

So, if you are confused by the plethora of controls and menu selections of a modern HF transceiver, this is the presentation for you to attend. Tube type, solid state rigs and software defined transceivers will all be on hand and demonstrated.



September Meeting Report

The September meeting focused on a different variant on amateur radio operations – Radio Direction Finding. Thomas KT5TK showed many different types of “Foxhunting” (that is, Radio Direction Finding) from 80m HF to the more common (in the US) UHF/VHF hunts. Thomas demonstrated the equipment required, examples of “foxes” (small transmitters) that are hidden for location. The presentation included an actual Fox Hunt!



Presidents Corner

By Rick Hiller – W5RH

Clueless in Ham Radio

Remember when you first started out in Ham Radio, or even before that as a shortwave listener or CB radio user. Think of what you thought after reading a technical article in a magazine, being inundated with new terms. But, as time went on you became familiar with it all, more comfortable with all that was involved. Well, welcome to the club. Welcome to the hobby. Welcome to “our world”. The world of Amateur Radio, or Ham Radio, as most folks know it.

At first you start out pretty clueless, with little or no basic knowledge, but as you read, as you listen, as you ask questions and get answers, the building blocks all fall into place and start creating your tower of Amateur Radio knowledge. The empty jar scenario is very applicable. You fill a jar with big rocks. Is it full? Pour in smaller rocks (they fill in the space between the big rocks). Is it full now? Pour in sand (fills in the smaller gaps). Full yet? Now add water --- ahhhh, now it is truly full. Same with radio frequency electronics (or anything for that matter), as you progress the rocks keep getting smaller and you fill in more of the empty void.

The “Amateur” in Amateur Radio is no indication of the ability level of the person in this chosen endeavor; it merely means one who is a “non-professional”. You can be an expert in one or two phases of Ham Radio and still be classified as an “Amateur”. Beginner or “neophyte” is more descriptive of the starting Ham Radio operator, but please know that all of us in BVARC encourage your jump into the radio hobby pool and we’ll help you along so that you can swim with the best. Remember, also, that Ham Radio is not a destination, it’s a journey. I started Ham Radio in 1969 and I learn new things all of the time, especially with my recent delve into SDR’s – Software Defined Radios.

With all of this in mind, I would like to mention the Technical Talk at the October 13th meeting. “Understanding and Using an HF Transceiver”. If you are “clueless” about HF Radios or just want a refresher, come on out to the October meeting.

We on the Board of Directors, have been thinking about the November Elections. We need to vote in a new President, Recording Secretary and a 2 Year At Large member. Please, think about volunteering your time for one of these positions. President is a bit of a time commitment, yes, but Recording Secretary is not a large time commitment and the 2 Year At Large position is minimal time – just show up at the board meetings and monitor your e-mails in between. We have a great active BVARC “core” group, but we do want to extend that group to include more members of the club. Let me know if you are interested in any of the election positions.

If you are a beginner, at the bottom of the Ham Radio mountain looking up, if you don’t know an RF Gain control from a Pass Band Tuning control. If ALC and AGC are just letters of the alphabet. The BVARC October meeting is the place for you. By joining us at BVARC you will be clueless no longer. In fact, in your plight to climb to the top of the technical knowledge heap, you might just teach us old timers a thing or two. Please remember that this is a hobby and, therefore, you’re never too experienced to learn and you’re never too clueless to teach. Have fun in your hobby. See you on the radio. 73, Rick – W5RH
(dit dit)





THE BVARC Rag Chew Net September check-ins

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

Below is the BVARC Rag Chew Net check-in information:

08/31/11, K5LKJ (NCS), W5HFF (M) (Houston), W5RH, W5TKZ, W5TOM, K0NM, K5LJ, N5CPA, K5NDB, WB5PNL (Beach City), N5TGL (Fulshear), WS5H, KF5EYX, KE5OBY, N5DTT, AE5YY. (16 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 108, SN = 89, A = 5, K = 2

09/07/11, K5LKJ (NCS), K0NM, W5TKZ, N5XWB, WS5H, K5NDB, N5CPA, K5LJ, W5TOM, WB5PNL (Beach City), N5DTT, KE5OBY (T), W5HFF (M)(Houston), W5RJA (T) (Round Rock), AE5YY. (15 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 107, SN = 93, A = 8, K = 1

09/14/11, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, K5CAM (Cat Springs), K5NDB, W5TKZ, N5CPA, W5HFF (M) (Houston), WS5H, K5LJ, AA5OA, W5RJA (T) (Round Rock), WD0EMN, W5RH, N5DTT, W5TOM, WB5PNL (Beach City), KE5OBY, K5HTB. (18 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 129, SN = 118, A = 15, K = 2

09/21/11, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TOM, K0NM, K5NDB, W5TKZ, AA5OA, N5CPA, N5TGL (Fulshear), K5IZO, W5HFF (M) (Houston), W5RH, WB5PNL (Beach City), WS5H, AE5YY, KD7TXJ, W5RJA (T) (Round Rock). (16 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 144, SN = 101, A = 7, K = 2

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

Thanks, Regards, John C. Whiteman



Probable Record BVARC participation in the Texas QSO Party

See the excellent article in this newsletter about the KK2W TXpedition. The Editor personally made Qs with at least the following BVARCers: KK5W, KK2Z, K5NDB, NT5SM, K5CAM, KE5OBY, WS5H, W5TKZ and probably others. We know that N5DTT and K5LKJ also participated. Hopefully there were many others that I didn't work. It doesn't matter if you made 2 Qs or 2000Qs. This is not about submitting "competitive" entries: It is about showing multiple operator participation. **PLEASE** submit your logs to the Texas QSO Party! In either case **you count** equally as another BVARC member that participated. **WHEN YOU SUBMIT THE LOG, BE SURE TO INDICATE** ON THE FORM THAT YOU ARE AFFILIATED WITH THE BRAZOS VALLEY ARC.

BVARC has been supporting the TQP for a number of years and we want continue to show this support with our log entries. This year, we sponsored 4 plaques. **PLEASE** submit your logs. They can even take manual logs. If you use the N3FJP software, it is a slam dunk. **IF YOU NEED HELP**, contact me, K5IZO. Detailed info on submittals is at the TQP website at: <http://www.txqp.net>





Understanding and Using HF Transceivers by Rick Hiller – W5RH October 13th Meeting Technical Talk

Today's transceivers are a complicated piece of electronic gadgetry that can be overwhelming when trying to be used by the beginner into the hobby or even the well seasoned Ham that has never worked the HF bands before. We'll talk about the basic radio controls in a tube type transceiver and look at the progression of those first version transceivers up thru the current, menu driven, solid state versions and even into the brave new world of Software Defined Radios. It should be a fun, hands-on evening. So, if you are clueless about HF Radios or just want a refresher, come on out to the October meeting. (It's in the building next door to and south of the normal Community Center meeting place)

Editor's Note: See main announcement on page 1.



Tailgate Sale Event

When: November 5
Where: The Summit High School
1838 E Sam Houston Pkwy, Pasadena, TX.
(Beltway 8 btwn Red Bluff & Pasadena Blvd)
Time: 7am til ?

Sponsored by:
PARC, CLARC, BAARC, PERC
Pearland, Clear Lake, Baytown & Pasadena



Astronomy Day Event includes BVARC Amateur Radio Participation – Oct. 8. Space Station QSO – live at the event.

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 and will also operate the observatory's Jupiter emissions listening station that evening. The HMNS has again arranged a contact with the space station which they will orchestrate in the observatory building. 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). 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.



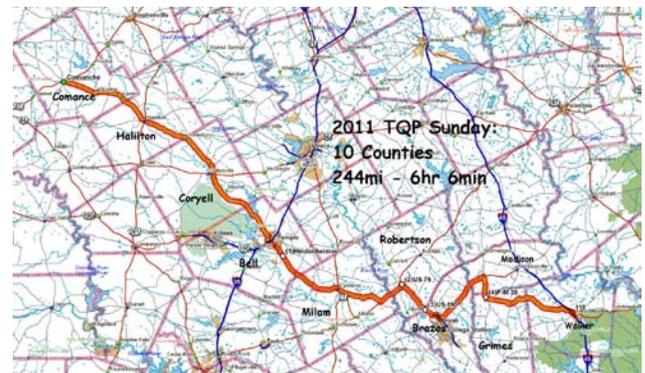
The 2011 KK5W TxPedition (Texas QSO Party) Rick Hiller (W5RH) & Pete Sauermilch (KD5QPX)

2010 TQP was summarized by, "Well, it seemed like a good idea at the time." 2011 was "Less is More." It would have been hard to have been better.

Preparation: The station was an Icom 746pro, out-board speaker and audio DSP, Heil Traveler headset, digital wattmeter, and auto antenna tuner with a Hustler 40-20-10M mag-mounted antenna on the roof. Everything was powered from 12VDC. With the exception of a few scary moments when we miswired equipment, everything worked first time. Friday evening did signal checks with Bill (WS5H) and Roy (W5TKZ). We were told that there was a really odd modulation to our audio. Later we realized the battery charger was connected to Rick's CR-V and it was working hard to pump the battery while the 746 was sucking out 20+ amps. With that solved, life was good. Rick had removed the passenger seat from his CR-V and created an operating desk. That made working the rig a real pleasure. We kept paper logs and had plenty of room for log, legs, glasses, scrap paper, and elbows.



Rick shows up on Saturday morning and we reinstall equipment. Again things go weird, hearts sink. Out come spare jumper cables, dummy load, ohmmeter, manual tuner, radio, and connectors. Again, a misconnection was discovered. Spirits soar. At 8:40AM we pull away from the curb heading to our launch point in Harris County. Rick and I prefer Central and West Texas driving and planned a sleep over in Mills County. We never made it that far. The original plan, shown below, was very aggressive calling for 34 counties. We actually drove 31 counties in 840 miles making 396 contacts. On Saturday we did not make Lampasas and Mills. On Sunday we did not make Comanche and Hamilton but added Lampasas; yes, Haliton is a typo.



Operation: Rick wired his headset into the Icom microphone connector that also provides audio out. That allowed the driver to hear the receive signal and supplemented the operator hearing through the headset. It also provided a backup for the headset if it failed. We had spare hand microphones. As a part time driver, it was nice to hear both sides of the QSOs.

In 2010 we were criticized for not calling as mobile. This year we called mobile with almost every station id. In addition, we had a GPS programmed for the county line crossings. The GPS provided a mileage and time count down to next county. We told stations how far we were from a new county. Quite often they waited on frequency until we crossed. Then we then had a pile up. This was simply solved by calling out to the last stations in the log to see if they were still available. That worked extremely well and very fast.

We used both the "Park On Frequency" and "Hunt And Pounce" strategies. We would stay on a frequency and frequently stations would come back to us to pick up a new county. When we had a dry spell, we would tune around and find stations. Usually they were strong stations that we previously worked. Both ends then would pick up another count towards the bonus for having worked the same station in 5 counties. Several times, we would call a strong station and then after the QSO, they would call out to other stations and see if they wanted to call us on the frequency and pick up our county. At times like that I felt proud to be associated with such considerate and selfless hams. In the end, KK5W could claim the bonus for every county we drove through. There were times we had to pull over on the shoulder or take a detour on another road looking for higher ground. The driver was always on the lookout for a microwave or cell tower, higher ground and all. That very thing happened in Menard County where there were many, many small mesa-like elevations and a short road through the county. Saturday

night outside Brunet TX. with 16 minutes left on the clock, we parked in a mail box pull out at 1,100 ft. elevation. Rick was on 40 and worked 14 stations; 8 out-of-state (AZ, AL, OK, MN, TN). He had to work the band but it gave up the QSOs. All this on a mobile antenna and 100W, Life was sweet!

Help From our Friends: We were amazed by the reoccurring contacts with K5CAM (12), K5IZO (12), and WS5H (3). (The actual count may be in error as the log has not been processed and the count was a visual scan down the sheets.) K5IZO would park on a frequency and K5CAM seemed to find us as we reamed. There were times we would call one of them and hear one of the other calling us back on the same freq. It was truly a neat experience!

Driving: I like driving in Central and Northwest Texas. There is only so much intense radio I can do before brain cells drip from my ears. Then it's "Wheel Time". It's nice to roll along and listen to Qs come in from the back seat. On I-10 in the Gillespie County rest area I'm listening to Rick talking to K5CAM telling him that we could see horizon to horizon. The picture below left was part of that view. Below center is the approach to Junction in Kimbel County. Then there are the



views that you just never see in Southeast Texas, at right. The scenery is choice, though I wouldn't want to try and live off the land. The pictures below I could not resist including. 73s.



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HAM RADIO IS BACK IN HOUSTON AGAIN!



BVARC "Under 15" CW Net

Tuesday 7PM

3.550 MHz

Join us for a fun filled 30 to 45 minutes of working the CW mode. We welcome new folks with open ears, 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-amble, 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-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 some slow speed CW.



Minutes of September 01, 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 September 01, 2011 at 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.); Bill Stone, WS5H (1yr At-Large Dir.); Eddie Runner, NU5K (Webmaster); Sharon Tomlinson, KF5HUF; Suzanne Runner, KF5GWZ; Norma Stone, KE5NDN; Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; Charles Frost, K5LBU; David Barber, K5NDB; Mike Hardwick, N5VCX.

- 1) Minutes for the August 2011 meeting were discussed. The second sentence of Item 4e was amended to read "Tomlinson volunteered to analyze the club asset list to determine if there are any specific items that require insurance." With amendment above, the August minutes were approved as they otherwise appear in the September newsletter.
- 2) Treasurer's Report was presented to and approved by the Board.
- 3) Old Business:
 - a) Insurance: Hiller announced that liability policy has been renewed. Tomlinson is attaching the cost to the items in the club inventory for the comprehensive element of the club insurance.
 - b) Wish List: Chauvin, Hiller, Tomlinson have the wish list complete excepting the possible donation to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund. The ARRL is still determining the legal consequence of a 503(c)3 entity donating to that fund.
 - c) Texas QSO Party: The BVARC check to fund sponsorship of some awards has not cleared the bank.
 - d) Astronomy Day: Chauvin is heading this effort. Thus far, BVARC has no obligation to the event. Potential volunteers are encouraged John Chauvin.
- 4) New business: Banquet: Hiller solicited opinions about the 2010 banquet. He is looking for a new 2011 site with better room geometry and reduced cost. While everyone liked the 2010 banquet, general reaction was that reducing expense was a priority.
- 5) Schedule: Kendrick announced the near term schedule.
 - a) September: Radio Direction Finding
 - b) October: HF Radio Operation
 - c) November: Elections
 - d) December: Home Brew
 - e) January: Banquet
- 6) Other Business: November elections:
 - a) Hiller gave a reminder that bylaws require the elections be officiated by the past president.
 - b) The positions up for election this year are:
 - i) President (currently Hiller)
 - ii) Recording Secretary (currently Sauermilch)
 - iii) 1 Year At Large Director (currently Stone)
- 7) Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX



BVARC Historical Vignettes – The BVARC Rag Chew Net

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

The early newsletters of the club do not mention when the first BVARC HF net was established, but the BVARC Bulletin from January 1982 contains the first mention of a BVARC HF phone net being held on Wednesday evenings. In October 1982 the newsletter called this net the BVARC Rag Chew Net, and 29 years later our club continues to hold this weekly net.

In the early days of the club, the Wednesday evening Rag Chew Net met on the ten meter band on 28.735 MHz at 8 PM, and was established as a phone net for those club members who did have two meter capability. The use of the two meter band and FM repeaters was not as widespread in 1982 as it is today and many amateur radio operators only had HF equipment. In February 1982 the net frequency was changed to 28.700 MHz. In May 1982 the net time was changed to 9 PM, and two months later it was changed again to 8:30 PM. The Rag Chew Net settled in to that frequency and time slot for a couple of years.

In January 1985 the Rag Chew Net was moved to 3.962 MHz on the 75 meter band. The net still met on Wednesday evenings at 8:30 PM, and Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG, became the net coordinator. Previously the net had a rotating schedule of net control operators, but that system had not worked out very well. In October 1985 Stu moved the net to 3.957 MHz, but by the end of the year the frequency was moved again to 3.960 MHz plus or minus 3 KHz. The time and frequency of the BVARC HF net again settled down and remained unchanged for four years. In December 1989 the net time was changed to 8 PM. That change lasted for six years, but in May 1995 the Rag Chew Net began meeting at 7:30 PM and was still held on 3.960 MHz. In July 2003 the net changed both time and frequency, moving to 3.910 MHz and meeting at 7 PM Wednesday evenings where the net currently meets.

The number of check-ins for the BVARC Rag Chew Net has been published in the club newsletter since January 1989. Using data from the newsletters and from my own logs for 1988 I was able to assemble a database consisting of data from 1,092 sessions of the Rag Chew Net. The total number of check-ins for these nets was 14,803. The average number of check-ins for a session of the net has been 13.6. The lowest number of check-ins for the Rag Chew Net occurred on August 10, 2005 when Joe Morgan K5JWM called the net and no one else checked in. The highest number of check-ins for a session of the net occurred March 31, 2010 when John Whiteman K5LKJ called the net and a total of 27 stations checked in.

Figure 1 compares the average number of check-ins for the Rag Chew and Public Service Nets with the number of members in BVARC. Figure 2 provides additional statistics about Rag Chew Net coordinators and the variation in net check-ins over the years. Our club owes a great deal to the net coordinators and net control stations that work very hard to keep our nets on the air.

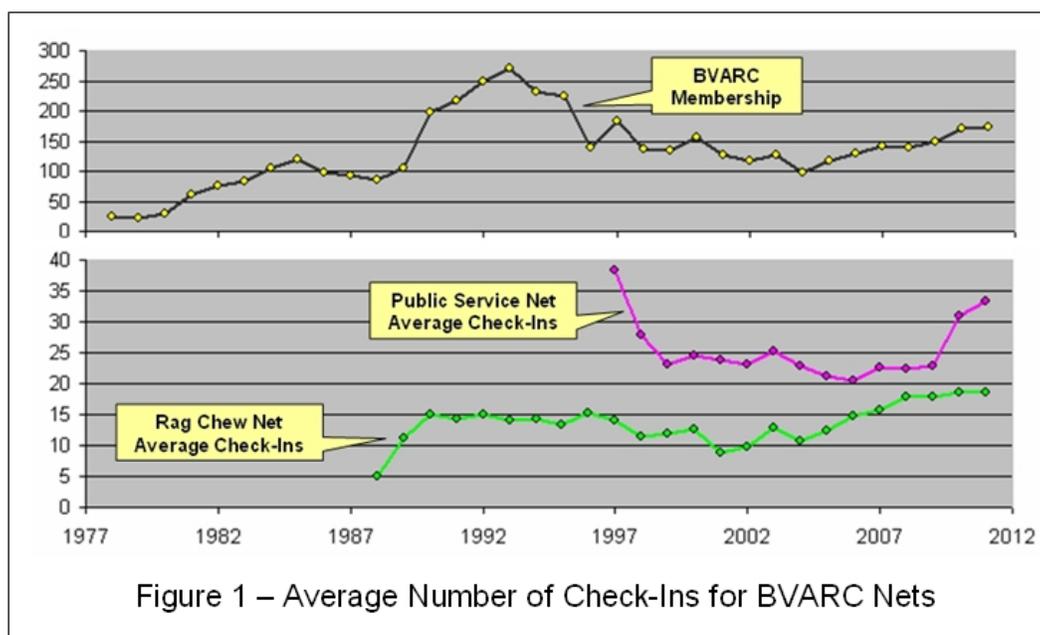


Figure 2 - BVARC Rag Chew Net Statistics

Rag Chew Net Coordinators	Years	Average Number of Check-Ins	Highest Number of Check-Ins
Stu Lamkin WB5IGG	1985 - 1988	4.9	11
Allen Mattis N5AFV	1989 - 1990	13.1	25
Mel Thatcher KB5ION	1991 - 1994	14.5	23
Sam Wilson N5CPA	1994 - 2002	12.0	25
Joe Morgan K5JWM	2002 - 2007	12.9	24
Sam Wilson N5CPA	April - June 2007	17.3	26
John Whiteman K5LKJ	July 2007 - Present	17.9	27



**Results of the September 13th
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, September 13, 2011 at HCC's Scarcella Science & Technology Building here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Dennis Dietrich, W5DDD
Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
John Moore, KK5NU
George Ontko, KM5VP
Marie Schaer, KD5UJT

Four examination elements were administered during the evening to three applicants. Two upgrades 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:

Bonnie L. Burris . - KF5KJO – General
Ronald W. Rogers - N5CLB - 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



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:

6/20 - 32 - Dwayne, kb5yta	7/18 - 45 - Dwayne, kb5yta	8/22 - 37 - Pete, kd5qpx
5/23 - 31 - Pete, kd5qpx	7/25 - 44 - Pete, kd5qpx	8/29 - 30 - Sid, n5zkd
6/27 - 37 - Cam, k5cam	8/1 - 46 - Cam, k5cam	9/5 - 32 - Cam, k5cam
7/4 - 23 - Cam, k5cam	8/8 - 29 - Clint, kd5hdf	9/12 - 31 - Clint, kd5hdf
7/11 - 33 - Clint, kd5hdf	8/15 - 28 - Dwayne, kb5yta	9/19 - 32 - Bill, ws5h

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>

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>





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Serving Amateur Radio for Southwest Houston and Fort Bend County
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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

Astronomy Day – Amateur Radio Event – October 8
BVARC General Membership Meeting – October 13

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