



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2014

VOLUME 38 ISSUE 11

## BVARC NOVEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7:30 PM, Thursday, November 13, 2014

2511 Eldridge Rd, Sugar Land, 77478, Eldridge Park Conference Center

### Chili Cook-Off at the Polls

As we close in on the end of the year the temperatures begin to fall, to the delight of many. With the falling temperatures comes the desire for hot chili. The desire for hot chili means that it is time for BVARC to hold a chili cook-off.

This year, come to the November meeting with a pot that old family recipe. You could just find yourself leaving with the grand prize. If cooking up chili is not your thing, how about bringing a plate of cornbread.

Also, don't forget that it is voting time. Offices in need of fresh perspective are: Vice President; Corresponding Secretary; Treasurer; the Two Year at Large Member; and the One Year at Large Member. If you are interested in any of these positions please notify Rick Hiller, W5RH, to have your name put on the ballot. Being a part of the BVARC board of directors is a great way to not only serve the club, but to be at the forefront of the direction that the club goes. Come and be a part of the vote, and come hungry.



### October Meeting Recap – Ham Auction

This past October was the second annual BVARC auction. There was a lot of great gear brought in for the auction and those who won their bid came away some great items at some great prices. The auction is still new for the club and we've learned something new each time that we've held it. We hope everyone enjoyed the auction. Next year expect some more changes to make the third year even better than the last.



### Hamfests

(within 200 miles of Houston)

Hamfest info for the next few months. More information at: <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html#listing>

#### **11/08/2014 | 16th Annual South Texas Hamfest**

**Location:** Aransas Pass, TX

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** South Texas Amateur Radio Club (STARC)

**Website:** <http://www.southtexashamfest.org>

#### **01/10/2015 | San Antonio Radio Club Fiesta**

**Location:** Schertz, TX

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** San Antonio Radio Club

**Website:** <http://w5sc.org>

## From the President, Bill Stone, WS5H

Hello to All Amateur Radio Operators and enthusiasts,

The small picture shows my exhibit of Amateur Radio readiness during the Sharpstown sub division neighborhood watch night out. Norma my wife KE5NDN has a way of making me smile in an unusual way so I look more like a Halloween prep. Anyway results were of a positive outcome for Amateur Radio, ARES, My antenna farm and met some new neighbors.



Our next general membership meeting with our traditional Chili Supper and elections of BVARC Board positions is upon us. Those of you who wish to serve on the BVARC BOD please give past President Rick W5RH notice to put your name on the ballot for the position you wish to serve as he is our election committee chairman. Please put this important meeting on your calendar, as we need a quorum. BVARC is your club and I prefer the membership to make the vote in of new BOD members rather than the existing BOD to appoint the new BOD. If you are new to Ham radio this is an excellent meeting for those questions you have needing answers from our seasoned members and Elmer's in the club. The Chili served up is really good too. UPDATE- I will present a plan of a possible membership drive at the November meeting. Please submit your thoughts and suggestions of the presented preliminary plan to your BOD members or even better yet come in person to one of the open BVARC Board of Directors meetings at Bayland Park Community Center.

This past month was much fun in BVARC with our BVARC Auction that brought in on the final money count for BVARC over \$600.00. I thank all of the members and guests that donated gear for this event. Many happy campers went home with good radio gear that found a new home. I also will make mention and Thanks to our local Houston Baofeng Radio distributor <http://baofengradio.us/> The split of auction sales of the 6 new HT's with 1 year warranty was an added bonus to the auction to sell new in the box items. Please help to support our local Houston area Ham radio shops like Houston Amateur Radio Supply, River Oaks Car Stereo MFJ / Alinco sales and Baofeng US. A tip for a discount is on the Baofeng us web site, type in code discount BVARC for a 10 % discount. This more than covers your paying local tax for your purchase and support of a Houston based Radio supplier.

Back on October 4<sup>th</sup> Katy ARC with support of our BVARC member Ron K5HM put together the local VHF simplex contest. In this contest I thought to get on the air and give some points however it became much fun and made many contacts with new Hams in our area so it soon became a contest mode operation for me. Bob KD5AT set up a park station for the event with several other operators and many in our club were on the air for the contest. I look forward to see the contest results and see many BVARC members in the top 10 for scoring.

The CQ WW DX SSB contest was a super blast for DX contacts on 10 Meters. When I think back as to all the countries I worked so painfully to get in my log and confirmed for DXCC in the low of the previous sun spot cycle and then to see that in the 2014 CQ WW SSB contest all the 100+ countries could be worked in a full day or two over one weekend. I did search and contacted a few new ones for my log like Andorra, Seychelles, Corsica, Brunei Darussalam, Lord Howe Island, and Western Sahara. The band was hot and that 10-meter V-Quad I use has snagged 262 countries in my log with now very close to 2/3<sup>rds</sup> of the world confirmed on LoTW. Not bad for a cut down CB Quad antenna @ 34 ft. If you missed this peek sun cycle contest you will still have time to gear up for the ARRL 10-meter Contest in December.

With so many different modes of radio communication in Amateur radio whatever your passion of preference is please make time to enjoy the hobby that builds skills in emergency communications.

CU all at the Chili Supper

73

Bill Stone WS5H

2014-2015 BVARC President

## The Sunspot Number

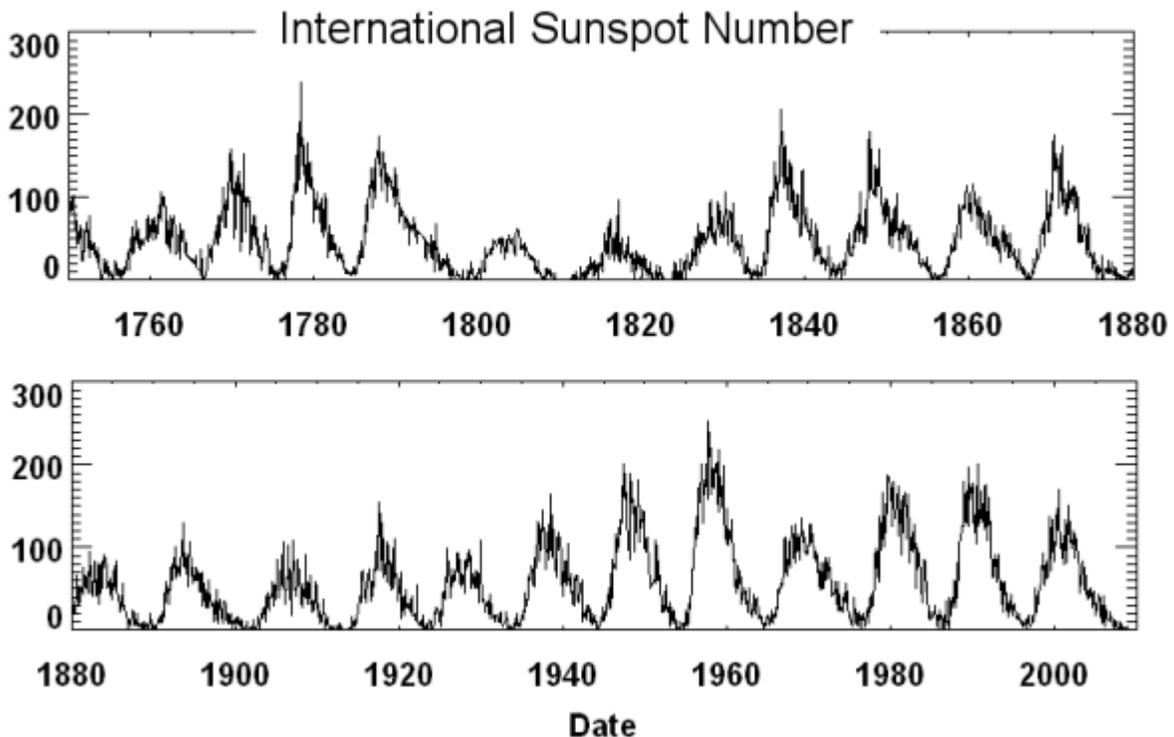
Scientists track solar cycles by counting sunspots -- cool planet-sized areas on the Sun where intense magnetic loops poke through the star's visible surface.

Counting sunspots is not as straightforward as it sounds. Suppose you looked at the Sun through a pair of (properly filtered) low power binoculars -- you might be able to see two or three large spots. An observer peering through a high-powered telescope might see 10 or 20. A powerful space-based observatory could see even more -- say, 50 to 100. Which is the correct sunspot number?

There are two official sunspot numbers in common use. The first, the daily "Boulder Sunspot Number," is computed by the NOAA Space Environment Center using a formula devised by Rudolph Wolf in 1848:

$$R = k (10g + s),$$

where **R** is the sunspot number; **g** is the number of sunspot groups on the solar disk; **s** is the total number of individual spots in all the groups; and **k** is a variable scaling factor (usually <1) that accounts for observing conditions and the type of telescope (binoculars, space telescopes, etc.). Scientists combine data from lots of observatories -- each with its own **k** factor -- to arrive at a daily value.



**Above:** International sunspot numbers from 1745 to the present.

The Boulder number (reported daily on SpaceWeather.com) is usually about 25% higher than the second official index, the "International Sunspot Number," published daily by the Solar Influences Data Center in Belgium. Both the Boulder and the International numbers are calculated from the same basic formula, but they incorporate data from different observatories.

As a rule of thumb, if you divide either of the official sunspot numbers by 15, you'll get the approximate number of individual sunspots visible on the solar disk if you look at the Sun by projecting its image on a paper plate with a small telescope.

## Radiosport Items of Note for November 2014

For a complete list of contests click the link below:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

QSO Parties – An easy way to try a contest for the first time. State QSO Parties are relaxed events. If you happen to need these states for WAS, they are a great way to work states to work states you can't easily find on the bands otherwise.

- Kentucky QSO Party Nov 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>

### Mixed Mode Contests

- Ukrainian DX Contest Nov 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Himalayan Contest Nov. 1s – 2<sup>nd</sup>
- ARRL EME Contest Nov 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>
- ARRL School Club Round Up Oct 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>

### SSB Contests

- JIDX Phone Contest Nov 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>
- ARRL Sweepstakes SSB Nov 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>

### CW Contests

- ARRL Sweepstakes CW Nov 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>
- CQ World Wide CW Nov 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>

### Digital Contests

- 10-10 Fall Digital Contest Nov 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>
- WAE DX Contest RTTY Nov 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>

### Selected Special Event Activities

W!AW portable operation – Work toward W1AW WAS by working W1AW portable in every state.

Special note for November: Two Special QTH's go on the air in November for one time only. W1AW/KH8 – American Samoa and W1AW/KP4 - Puerto Rico. While these don't count for WAS, it would be really gratifying to have them on the wall of your shack. .

States shown with an asterisk (\*) are in their second rotation. This is your last chance to work these states. .

Scheduled in October week beginning are:

**American Samoa W1AW/KH8 11/5 -11/18**

**Puerto Rico W1aw/KP4 11/26 – 12/2**

\*Washington – 11/5

\*Kansas – 11/5

\*Rhode Island – 11/12

\*Mississippi – 11/12

\*Florida – 11/19

\*Arkansas – 11/19

\*Delaware – 11/26

\*Louisiana – 11/26

Extra Hour Special Event Station 11/2 End of Daylight Savings Time – W8BAP

Veterans Day Celebrations – 11/8 - Various

First Pilgrim Landing at Plymouth Nov 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>

### And, the ever popular

Frankenstein 2014 Halloween FunExpedition Oct 25<sup>th</sup> – Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>. Frankenstein, Mo. W00

For details on every Special Event in November, go to

[http://www.arrl.org/special\\_events/search/page:3/Date.start:2014-11-01/Date.end:2014-11-30/model:Event](http://www.arrl.org/special_events/search/page:3/Date.start:2014-11-01/Date.end:2014-11-30/model:Event)

Reporting from the Dark Side,  
Ron, K5HM

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## Results of the October 4th BVARC Amateur License Examination Session

by: John Moore, KK5NU

BVARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at HCC's Scarcella Science & Technology Building here in Stafford, TX.

### MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Larry Jacobson, K5LJ  
Ron Litt, K5HM  
John Moore, KK5NU  
George Ontko, KM5VP

Two examination elements were administered during the evening to two applicants. One new Technician class and one upgrade to Amateur Extra class license were attained, with the total number of elements passed being 2. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

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

Lloyd G. Harper, Jr. - WB5BRE - Amateur Extra  
Kris D. Larson - {KG5EKS} - Technician

Many thanks to all the Team Members and Assistants who volunteer their valuable time and effort each month. All of us at B-VARC again thank everyone at HCC Scarcella Science & Technology Building for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

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## Minutes of the October Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Bill Stone WS5H called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to at 7:10 PM on September 4 2014 at Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston 77074. Attending were:

Bill Stone WS5H (Pres), Michael Wrenn K5WRN (V.P.), Bob Tomlinson N5JSL (Cor.Sec. /Treas.), Michael Monsour ACØTX (Rec.Sec. /Quart.), Ron Litt K5HM (2yr At-Large Dir.& Radio Sport), Jerry Muller KF5EYC (2yr At-Large Dir.), Nathan Vessey N5NYV (1yr at Large Dir), Eddie Runner NU5K Webmaster, Suzanne Runner KF5GWZ, Norma Stone KE5NDN

### Announcements:

- 1.1 Mark McGrath N5VCM is the new net control manager.
- 1.2 Mike Wrenn K5WRN gave a status report on the auction. Baofeng will bring a few new items for the auction.
- 1.3 The Texas QSO donation of \$111 has been sent.

### Reports:

- 2.1 A motion was made and passed to accept the Minutes as printed in the Newsletter.
- 2.2 The Treasurer, Bob Tomlinson N5JSL made his report. A motion was made and passed to accept the Treasurer's report.
- 2.3 There will be four or five spots open in the November elections
- 2.4 Ron Litt K5HM gave the budget report. In general the club is ahead compared to last year

### Old Business:

- 3.1 Discussion concerning the annual banquet, which is in January. A motion was made and passed to appoint a committee of three to determine the banquet site. Ron Litt K5HM agreed to be chairman of the banquet committee and appoint committee members.
- 3.2 The Chili Supper was discussed. A motion was made and passed to approve \$100 for Chili Supper costs and for \$50 for possible awards.
- 3.3 Nathan Vessey N5NYV gave a status report and a preliminary budget on the Hamfest with renting with an additional hall for more tables and activities. Setup is available all day Friday  
Icom, Kenwood and Yaesu have stated very directly that they need certain benchmarks to happen before they will attend a Hamfest such as 1400 to 2000 attendance and a two-day hamfest.
- 3.4 There was only one submission for the KK5W new QSL design contest.

### New Business:

- 4.1 The Board has decided against donating to the USS Lexington radio room in memory of a non-BVARC SK  
There was a general discussion regarding donations from BVARC regarding SKs. Although there was no motion passed, the sentiment is not in favor of any BVARC monetary donation for a memorial for a SK.
- 4.2 A Maker Fair coming up in early November. The Maker Fair is asking BVARC to demonstrate Amateur Radio related projects. Both Nathan Vessey N5NYV and Stephanie Vessey K5SFV will be there and Jerry Muller KF5EYC along with Michael Monsour ACØTX volunteered to be there.
- 4.3 Jerry Muller KF5EYC brought up a suggestion for the Web site.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Michael Monsour ACØTX



# BVARC Elections for 2015/2016 Officers

*We are looking for a few good women and men.*

The November 13th meeting brings us to our annual elections (and Chili Supper). The Election Committee is looking for any and all persons willing to serve the club. Being on the BVARC Board of Directors allows you to not only see the inner workings of the club, but to also influence how the club is run. It's fun too!

In November, we will be voting for **Vice-President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, 2 Year At Large Member** and a **1 Year At Large Member**. No experience is necessary, but your dedication to the club and our Ham Radio hobby will certainly work in your favor.

Contact me, Rick Hiller, W5RH, at [rhiller@sdicgm.com](mailto:rhiller@sdicgm.com) or call me, day-time, at 713-278-6310 direct to my desk at anytime, if you desire to help the club in the future.

Thank you. BVARC 2015/2016 Election Committee



## THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

October Check-ins

10/01/14, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TOM, KF5TFJ, W5TKZ, W5HFF, KC5JAR (Katy), KE5OBY (R), K5IZO, K0NM, WS5H, AA5OA, AA0ST (Dickenson), W5RH, WA5KXG, KF5PHA, KF5JMJ (Pasadena). (16 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 162, SN = 166, A = 15, K = 2

10/08/14, K5LKJ (NCS), W5HFF, W5TKZ, KF5TFJ, KE5OBY (R), W5TOM, AA5OA, K0NM/5 (RCS), KD5DFL/5 (RCS)(Pineville, LA), WS5H, AA0ST (Dickenson), KE5HDF (12 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 125, SN = 75, A = 6, K = 2

10/15/14, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, KF5TFJ, W5HFF, K5LJ, W5TOM, K0NM, W5RH/5 (Sabinetown), K5IZO/5 (Jasper), KK2Z (Burnet), WN5A, WS5H, AA0ST (Dickenson), KF5PHA, KF5JMJ (Pasadena).

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 20, SN = 70, A = 18, K = 2

10/22/14, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TOM, W5HFF, KF5TFJ, W5TKZ, K5IZO, KE5OBY (R), AA5OA, K5LJ, WS5H, AA0ST (Dickenson), KE5HDF, KK2Z (Burnet), W5RH, KF5OXF (Needville), KF5JMJ (Pasadena). (16 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 199, SN = 120, A = 15, K = 3

(M) = mobile (P) = Portable (R) = Relay (RCS) = remote controlled station (T) = telephone check-in

Come join in the conversation each Wednesday evening. Regards. John K5LKJ



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## Monday Night NET Updates

Don't forget the Monday Night Public Service Net starts at **8 pm** on 146.94 (167.9). The order of check-ins start with mobile units first then fixed stations. If you have something for the net, make sure you let Net Control know about it when you check in. We are looking for Net Control Operators. Contact any officer of BVARC if you are interested. Here are recent check-ins with control-ops:

7/14 - 22 - Rick, w5rh	8/18 - 35 - Ron, k5hm	9/22 - 22 - Pete, kd5qpx
7/21 - 26 - Ron, k5hm	8/25 - 19 - Pete, kd5qpx	9/29 - 16 - Dave, n5ekw
7/28 - 33 - Pete, kd5qpx	9/1 - 18 - Cam, k5cam	10/6 - 30 - Cam, k5cam
8/4 - 27 - Cam, k5cam	9/8 - 25 - Rick, w5rh	10/13 - 24 - Rick, w5rh
8/11 - 20 - Rick, w5rh	9/15 - 17 - Ron, k5hm	10/20 - 21 - Ron, k5hm



## **BVARC Historical Vignettes – 1985 BVARC President Harold Parker ND5F Silent Key**

**Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian**

On October 12, 2014, W. H. "Harold" Parker, the 1985 president of BVARC passed away. I first met Harold in 1985 shortly after moving from Tulsa to Houston. One Tuesday evening the Houston SHOT Ten-Ten Net was closing and Harold asked me to stay on frequency after the net. Harold invited me to attend the September 1985 BVARC meeting and I took him up on the invitation because I was looking for a Houston area amateur radio club to join.

Those were exciting years for BVARC. The club was only eight years old, and many of founding or charter members were still active. Club membership reached 120 that year. Parker had served as the club's Special Service Club Coordinator for the past two years and was responsible for guiding BVARC through the complicated process of becoming an ARRL Special Service Club.

The first BVARC VE exam session was held on February 23, 1985 in the Missouri City Municipal Building during Harold's term as president. Bill Ossenfort headed the BVARC VE team, and when Ossenfort passed away in June 1985, Harold stepped to up head the VE team, a position he held until April 2000.

After his term as president ended, Harold was also very active on the club's nomination committee. Many of the past officers of BVARC can relate how Harold coaxed and cajoled them into running for office.

During the last decade Harold was not very active in the club. Medical issues for both Harold and his wife, Mary Ann, kept them occupied. The last time I am aware that Harold attended a BVARC function was in 2011 when all of the club's past presidents were invited to attend the August Ice Cream Social as guests of honor. Harold, and his wife, Mary Ann, were present.

The last time I spoke with Harold was in July of this year when I was preparing a Historical Vignette about the passing of Bill Dessens, AA5BD, the 1990 BVARC president. Some of you may recall that Vignette and how Harold Parker brought a code oscillator to Dessens' hospital room that allowed Dessens to communicate with his family when he was unable to speak. This is another example of the many things Harold Parker did to help other people. Harold was a mentor for me and I will miss him.



BVARC was well represented at the October 19, 2014 memorial  
past-president Harold Parker, ND5F

service for



## The Radio Hotel – Reflected Reflections -- November 2014

What occurs when an Antenna Tuner is placed in the transmission line –TL at some point? What happens to the reflected power that is sent back towards the transmitter from the mis-matched antenna load? Is it lost, is it absorbed, is it radiated... just what happens? The answers to these questions lies in the organized confluence of complementary impedances, phasing and wave mechanics. There is much more detail than TRH has space to deal with, but I can give you the cursory, 20,000 foot perspective.

An Antenna Tuner, aka Matching Network – MN, is a variable RF transformer that matches the impedance (toward the load) seen at its' output, to the impedance (toward the xmitter) seen at its' input. When matched, you get the maximum amount of power transferred. In the RF world this match is called a “conjugate match”, which is 1) making the R values of these two impedances equal; and 2) providing the complement of the imaginary, or j term, in the impedances. For example: if  $Z_{out}=150 +j50$  ohms then the MN provides the complement of  $150 -j50$  ohms -- mathematically called the “complex conjugate”. Hence the name for the match: conjugate match. This complex conjugate matching causes a “maximum power transfer condition”. (Google “Conjugate Match” and “Maximum Power Transfer Theorem”).

This matching can be accomplished using many network types; the choice is dependent on where the network is applied. At the antenna, you can have Gamma matches, Hairpins, stubs, etc. If it is located within the TL, you can have L, T, and Pi...networks (named after the shape the network elements take in the schematic). These networks are what are inside those “tuners” from MFJ, Palstar, LDG, SGC, etc.

The MN, by setting up this complementary impedance match, also produces complementary wave mechanics and wave phase interactions that cause the reflected waves coming back from the antenna to be “re-reflected” at the MN and then to add, in phase, with the forward going waves continuously traveling toward the antenna from the transmitter. These “reflected reflections” create a “circulating current” of forward and reflected voltage and current waves on the TL. (For a complete (in depth) explanation of this process, Google “Another look at Reflections K6MHE” go to page 24 and read section [Reflection Mechanics of Stub Matching](#) – Walt Maxwell explains this process in intimate detail.)

Simple proof that all of the reflected power is truly re-reflected is the observation that the SWR on the TL, from the load to the MN, is something greater than 1:1, but from the MN to the rig it is 1:1, a matched condition. When the SWR is 1:1 there is no reflected power. Zero, Zip, Nada! All power input from the transmitter (except for TL and MN loss) is transferred to the antenna system. The term “reflection gain” is used by Maxwell for this situation where reflected power is added to the forward power, creating, literally, a higher forward power level to the antenna than what the transmitter outputs.

Summary. What does all of this mean to us Hams? First, it shows us that our antennas, TL-feed lines and MN-matching networks are indeed a “closed system” where one change affects the whole system, etc. Second, now that we know that all the power is re-reflected and eventually makes it to the antenna to be radiated and the only losses are the matched TL losses and the minimal MN losses, then the thing to concentrate on is to lessen the TL losses and the MN losses by using lower loss coax/feedline and a more efficient MN.

If everything is implemented properly, the losses incurred will be minimal and you will get maximum power out to the antenna and stronger signals into your receiver. Coax can be used, as it is convenient, but when dealing with multi-band antennas or unmatched antennas on tuned feeders, then it is best to use open wire line or ladder line to lower the loss. The SWR might be higher, as these balanced feedlines run characteristic impedances of 400 ohms and up, but the overall losses incurred will be lower than with coax.

For this series, we started out 6 months ago defining SWR and ended up this month discussing the results of complementary wave mechanics on the TL. A lot of RF thru the proverbial RF bridge (HI). I hope you go back and reread the past 6 columns in order to make sense of what is happening on your TL and understand why it all works as it does and why in the end we get Reflected Reflections. Enjoy – Rick – W5RH

*The purpose of **The Radio Hotel** is to give you a practical kickstart into exploring the workings of antenna systems. It is a series, so go back and read the previous columns to get the whole picture, as one month relies on the previous month's information. Google the buzz words and find out what they mean. Read up on antenna system theory to see how it all works together. You will be glad you did.*

## W1AW/5 Part Deux Sept 10<sup>th</sup> – Sept 16<sup>th</sup> 2014

It was a week like any week. Not really. This was the week that Texas stood up for its second time to be part of the W1AW Portable Operations.

Beginning in January, amateurs around the world are participating on the ARRL Centennial QSO Party. Interest has been high all year. Unless you are planning to be here for the Bicentennial QSO Party in 2114, there are many ways to participate.

The QSO party rules award points for working ARRL Members and Officials but the most unique aspect are contacts with W1AW Portable stations in every state and many territories. My personal goal is to achieve W1AW Portable Worked All States. So far I am on track, except for West Virginia, which I missed due to a late start this year but my second chance is coming later this month.

I was among those who operated W1AW/5 earlier this year. I thought nothing could surpass that experience. I was wrong. Taking nothing away from the first W1AW/5 crew, the September experience was even more breathtaking.

I shared this honor with 59 Texas amateurs, who put in collectively 139 hours and 54 minutes of air time according to the log data.

Rather than operating from a single location as we had in the W1AW/5 effort earlier this year, we were able to operate in many instances from our home QTH or as a guest op from another participant's shack nearby. This approach allowed many more folks to participate and to schedule their working slots during the weekdays, either before or after working hours.

Band Conditions were challenging and we had to be mindful of the WAE contest over the weekend as well as some bad weather. In spite of the challenges, W1AW/5 Texas Part Deux, logged a total of 57,256 QSO's for the week, The team average QSO Rate was 409.26 QSO's per hour. The peak rate occurred on the first day, an hour and fifteen minutes after the start; a rate of 1,838 QSO's per hour.

We were active from 160 – 2 meters. Operators on 20 meters logged 12,956 Q's (23%), with 15 meters a close second at 11,200 (20%) of the total.

Operating modes included CW, FM, JT65, JT9, PSK31, PSK63, RTTY, and SSB. Not surprisingly the big modes were, CW (44%), SSB(40%) and RTTY(9%).

I can't say enough about that week without a salute to Larry Hammell, K5OT and George Fremin III, K5TR who organized and coordinated operations and schedules. Their efforts paid off in a smooth running, well-coordinated operation.

A key factor in our success was the e-mail reflector for team members to easily stay in touch with the whole team. It allowed us to communicate about availability and to trade time slots to work. A web based scheduling calendar made it easy to find a time slot to work and be able to reserve it instantaneously. Having the reflector and the on-line schedule made it easy for someone to step into a previously reserved slot, if a someone had to bow out.

The usual problems plagued some of us ,blown fuses, blown finals, deliberate QRM and antenna mishaps. Still the week turned out to be a huge success judging from the e-mail on the reflector.

“Worked a station that told me this was his first QSO after a 10 year lapse in his license.” – K5HM

“I wanted to be loud so ran 1500w PEP from the Acom 2000A. It sure helped to hold the frequency on 20m when the WAE contest was in full swing. John ON4UN even stopped by to say hello.” – W9DX

“The Lone Star State is definitely on the map & in plenty of logs!”. “Only casualty was an Alpha 99 that cratered Saturday afternoon - ughh.” – N5RZ

“I had no idea there were so many Ukrainian hams! Having Seychelles, Saudi Arabia, Lichtenstein, Namibia, Dodecanese, Iceland (several!), most of the “-stans” call.”- K5PI

I wish I could list the calls of all those who worked to make that week so great. If anyone is interested in the detailed statistics, I suggest an e-mail to K5OT or K5TR. While you are at it tell them thanks for producing a magnificent effort.

I'll just end with this.

I'm happy to have the chance to work with a group of first class amateur ops and to be a part of this event. It's an experience I will never forget.

See you at the Bicentennial!  
Ron, K5HM

# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

This newsletter is a monthly publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club. For a full listing of officers and information about BVARC, please go to [www.bvarc.org](http://www.bvarc.org). Detailed information will be published in the newsletter every 3 months.

General membership dues are \$25.00 per year, with student dues \$10.00 per year, additional family members \$5.00 per member per year.

Club meetings are normally held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Eldridge Park Conference Center, 2511 Eldridge Rd, Sugar Land, 77478. Check the above website for any possible changes.

**BVARC** also administers amateur radio license exams on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 281-701-7602 or see the BVARC website: [www.bvarc.org](http://www.bvarc.org)

Other contacts include:

President:, Bill Stone, WS5H, [dragntow@wt.net](mailto:dragntow@wt.net)

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**BRAZOS VALLEY  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

**P.O. BOX 2997**

**SUGAR LAND, TX 77487-2997**

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**November General Membership Meeting, Elections and Chili Supper – November 13.**



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