



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

JUNE 2015

VOLUME 39 ISSUE 6

BVARC JUNE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7:30 PM, Thursday, June 11th, 2015

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

Field Day – Field Day – Field Day

It is that time again – Field Day! Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, and Mike Davidson, N5MT, will be co-chairman for this year’s multi-club event. The three clubs, BVARC, TDXS and ECHO will be setting up on June 26 for this year’s Field Day. Our June meeting will be an organizational and planning meeting for Field Day so don’t miss out.

Greater Houston Hamfest

The numbers are in and it is official – over 1000 people attended the hamfest this year which is an all-time high. Nathan Vessay, N5NVY, will present a review of the hamfest and all the pluses and minuses. He will also go over the plans and goals for next year hamfest.

73
N5VCX



May Meeting Recap – ARES and Transtar

Jeff Walter, KE5FGA, gave us a detailed power point on Transtar and how ARES interacts with them. Transtar is one of the state’s largest emergency operation centers due to the area it covers. As Jeff mentioned, amateur radio is an integral part of Transtar and provides a valuable service to the emergency and disaster communications for the greater Houston area. So if you are interested in getting involved in ARES or RACES, contact Jeff Walter and let him know.



Upcoming Meetings

Below is a list of the plans for future meetings. Mark your calendars so you won’t miss out.

July	Program #1	Antenna Building – The In’s and Out’s	pending
	Program #2	Grounding	pending
August	Program #1	Ice Cream Social	

I am still needing program suggestions for the club. If there is a program you would like, let me know so it can be scheduled for a meeting.

The Vice Prez Says

Just to let everyone know Bill Stone, W5SH, is still out on a chemical holiday so everyone will have to put up with my ramblings a little longer. When I talked to Bill, he told me to say hi to everyone and he hopes to be back soon after the chemo is finished in a few weeks. As per Bill's wishes, I would not call Bill just yet since chemo is still "comatoasting" him. Keep thinking positive thoughts about Bill and his road to recovery.

Last month's meeting will well at the Sugar Land Masonic Lodge and hopefully we will have a permanent contract for the space. The Mason's are very positive on BVARC meeting there and have rolled out the red carpet for us. So keep your finger's crossed on speedy contract negotiations.

Museum Ship Weekend (MSWE) for the submarine USS Cavalla and destroyer escort USS Stewart is just about a week away so put it on your calendar. MSWE chairman, Willis Cookie K5EWJ, is working on the plans for the event and still needs your help. If you would like to come out to MSWE and help out, drop Cookie an e-mail or call and let him know so he can get an accurate count for food, radios, and operators. As last year, we will be at Fort Travis Park on Bolivar peninsula. Set-up will begin on Friday afternoon with the event starting approximately noon Saturday. I will be out there with the N5VCX tower trailer as always so I hope to see everyone there.

Field Day is just a month away. I will be FD chairman this year along with help from Mike Davidson, N5MT. As in last year, this is a joint club Field Day with TDXS and the ECHO Society. Mike and I will be getting together this week to plan out the event and the operating parameters. Field Day will be help, as in the past, the Fort Bend County Fire Training Field in Richmond. We still need a lot of people to step up and help with the event so please let either myself or Mike, N5MT know if you would like to volunteer. See everyone at the meeting.

73,
Mike. N5VCX



BVARC Rag Chew Net May Check-Ins

04/29/15, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, AA5OA, W5TOM, KF5TFJ, W5HFF, AF5T, KE5OBY, AA0ST (Dickenson), WD6CQO (Nederland), AA0ST (Dickenson), KK5IS, KF5PHA, W5RH. (14 Check-Ins)
Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 104, SN = 36, A = 6, K = 1

05/06/15, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, KF5TFJ, AA0ST/5 (P)(Dickenson), K5LJ, KE5OBY, KF5PHA, AA5OA, WN5A, KK2Z (Burnet), W5TOM. (11 Check-Ins). Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 137, SN = 99, A = 5, K = 4

05/13/15, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, AF5T, KF5TFJ, K5IZO/5 (P)(Jasper), W5HFF, W5TOM, AA5OA, W5SH, AA0ST (Dickenson). (10 Check-Ins) . Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 164, SN = 170, A = 15, K = 4

05/20/15, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, KF5TFJ, W5TOM, AA5OA, W5HFF, K5IZO, K5LJ, AF5T, AA0ST (Dickenson), KE5OBY, KC5JAR (Katy). (12 Check-Ins). Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 104, SN = 64, A = 17, K = 1

(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



RSVP for Museum Ships Weekend Food

Did you RSVP for your food for the Museum Ships Weekend? By the time you read this, Museum Ships Weekend will be only several days away. To hold down costs to BVARC, please RSVP which meals you intend to participate in. See the related article in this newsletter.



Museum Ships Weekend

We recently held the meeting about Museum Ship Weekend on at Bayland Park. The BVARC acting President and Vice President, Mike Hardwick was present as were the MSWE Chairman, Cookie Cooke and the Newsletter Editor John Chauvin. Also present were Michael Monsour who is committed to the Grand Camp and High Flyer in Texas City. Travis Burgess was present as always and is committed to the activity at Ft. Travis. A new Member of BVARC, Tom Johnson was also present and presented his plan to bring his Radio Controlled Drone for Aerial Video. We discussed antennas for the event and we plan to erect Mike Hardwick's trailer tower with the BVARC tri-band Hy Gain Antenna. We will have the club's TriPlexer available so that we can run up to three bands at one time on the club antenna. We also plan to have a six meter directional antenna and a VHF/UHF Vertical and one forty meter antenna available. It is not clear if we will have enough operators to man all the frequencies all the time so please plan to attend if you can and feel free to bring your radio and power supply.

We plan to man the area for about 48 hours, starting Friday afternoon, June 5 with Setting Up the primary activity for Friday Afternoon and beginning operation at 0000Z on Saturday Morning (1900 CDST Friday). We will break for Hamburgers Friday Night and continue until we run short of operators or stations who wish to contact us. We will also break Saturday Morning to eat breakfast tacos and serve cold drinks and hot coffee. We will continue radio operations throughout Saturday Morning and break for Subway Sandwiches and Cold Drinks at about noon. We will continue operations through Saturday night and break for Pizzas Saturday night. We plan for various pastries on Sunday Morning with your choice of cold drinks and hot coffee.

We have unpleasant memories of the insect wildlife on Friday and Saturday evenings. We plan a counter offensive this year with insect yard bombs and mosquito netting.

A big problem for us to overcome is an inability to accurately forecast just how many members will wish to operate and eat the club provided food. We wish to provide plenty for those who want to eat, but also be good stewards of club funds. If you haven't sent in your RSVP, please do so ASAP and as quickly and accurately as you can citing which meals you will attend. Send this to bvarcmswe@gmail.com. We would like very much to provide the right amount of food, drink and operating opportunities with a reasonable, but not wasteful overage.

Cookie Cooke
Museum Ship Weekend Coordinator



Field Day 2015

Once again, BVARC will be at the Fireman's Training Center. The date is June 27 & 28. See related information in the Prez Says article.



BVARC Historical Vignettes

Due to the writer's computer problems, this article is not available for this issue. Look for the regular installment in next month's issue.





Minutes of the May 7th, 2015 Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Bill Stone called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to at 7:00 PM on May 7th, 2015, at Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston 77074.

Attending were:

Bill Stone WS5H (Pres), Mike Hardwick N5VCX (V.P.), Bob Tomlinson N5JSL (Treas.), Michael Monsour ACØTX (Rec.Sec./Quart.), Stephanie Vessey K5SFV (Cor. Sec, QSL Manager), Scott Medbury KD5FBA (2yr At-Large Dir), Jerry Muller K9GEM (2yr At-Large Dir.), Darrel Kirk KC5JAR (1 yr At-Large Dir), Eddie Runner NU5K Webmaster, Suzanne Runner KF5GWZ, John Chauvin K5IZO Newsletter Editor, Nathan Vessey N5NYV, Norma Stone KE5NDN

Announcements:

- 1.1 Bill Stone announced that Mike Hardwick N5VCX would officiate at the Board meeting.

Reports:

- 2.1 A motion was made and passed to accept the Treasurers report. The Hamfest report is not part of the Treasurer's report.
- 2.2 Changing the meeting spot per By-Laws was discussed and how to implement it. The Masonic Lodge is working on a lease contract. The next meeting at the Masonic Lodge is a 'try before one buys'.
- 2.3 A motion was made and passed to approve the minutes except for the Hamfest count.

Old Business:

- 3.1 Admission count for the Hamfest: Tom Tomlinson's count came to 900 paid and 24 unpaid attendances. There were confusion with the terms; raffle tickets, grand prize tickets and door prize tickets with some people getting more than one door prize ticket so the count of the door prize tickets are not accurate. Even with 900 count this is 200 more than last year. There is a consensus just to add 10% to the known count. There are 900 paid with 24 unpaid +10% = 1016 admission. A motion was made and passed that the Hamfest admission is 1016.
- 3.2 Museum Ship Weekend Event: Cookie [Willis Cook K5EWJ] is in charge and is allotted \$500 for costs.
- 3.3 Field Day: The chair people are Mike Davidson N5MP and Mike Hardwick N5VCX, the budget is \$1000. Looking at 7 to 9 alpha. In the past ECHO and TDXS have done a customary \$100 donation to BVARC.
- 3.4 There will be 60 people from four different clubs that will be in attendance at the Skeeters game on May 30.
- 3.5 The next meeting will feature ARES and Tran Star with Jeff Walters
- 3.6 ARRL Gulf Coast awards this will be further investigated.

New Business:

- 4.1 There is an attempt to put together a license class. A difficulty concerns the availability of instructor hours.
- 4.2 Need someone at the meeting to meet and greet new members.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:09PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary Michael Monsour



Where is the World is . . .

This article is unavailable at press time. Look forward to resumption of these very interesting articles in the next month's newsletter.





The Radio Hotel – The Antenna - Part 4 by W5RH

Polarization and Height Above Ground

Parts 1 thru 3 have focused on the Antenna “Recipe” (in March) and some “Basic and Controlling Characteristics”. Two additional antenna Controlling Characteristics are Polarization and Height Above Ground which control the radiation pattern shape. Both are used to control what we finally “get out” of the antenna.

Take an ordinary $\frac{1}{2}$ wavelength dipole for HF and extend it horizontally between 2 trees in your back yard. The dipole’s radiation will be “horizontally polarized”...meaning that the E-Field will be parallel to Earth/ground reference. Note, however, that as the HF wave travels through the Ionosphere it can rotate to vertical polarized and back to horizontal depending on its’ path angle and path length and the layers of the Ionosphere it encounters. (**Google: Antenna EH Fields – the total field radiated – Wikipedia has a good explanation**).

Now, rotate the dipole to be completely vertical (well, imagine rotating it – this is easier than actually rotating it). The antenna E Field radiation is now vertically oriented and the antenna is said to be “vertically polarized”. Similar to a vertical antenna on your car for use on 2 Meters. 2 Meters is a good example of the use of the correct polarization. If your car antenna is vertical and the repeater antenna is vertical, then maximum transfer of signal will occur. If you use a horizontal antenna to try and access the repeater you will be at a 3dB disadvantage due to the loss occurring simply by being the wrong polarization. As mentioned above, on HF, where the radiation travels thru the Ionosphere, the polarization is not so important to the receiving station, but is important for the transmitting station. How? That’s next.

An antenna that is horizontally polarized will take advantage of the gain that is provided by the near field reflection (off the earth) that adds to the direct radiation field. This additive reflection is dependent on the antenna physical height about ground to give the most gain at a specific angle. As you move a horizontal antenna further away from the Earth it will produce a radiation field that will become lower and lower in main lobe radiation angle – meaning better for DX. (**Google: Antenna radiation angle**)

For further in depth reading of these height versus angle of radiation properties have a read of the excellent ARRL paper: “Antenna Height and Communication Effectiveness”. Find it at <https://www.arrl.org/files/file/antplnr.pdf>

With a vertically polarized antenna, its’ radiation launch angle is quite low when it is mounted right at the earth. That is an advantage of vertical antennas, they have that low DX launch angle right at the earth level, so you get that DX pattern right at ground level. The slight disadvantage of the vertical antenna is that it radiates in all directions at once and, therefore, does not have the gain associated with Yagi type “directional” antennas. But, if a vertical is what you can put up in your yard due to HOA or “better 2/3rds” restrictions, then put up that vertical and work the world.

So in summary, orientation of the antenna wire or metal element gives us the polarization and height above ground gives us the main lobe radiation angle and shape of the radiation pattern. Pretty straight forward stuff. This basic antenna theory can be found on the web and in many antenna books written for the layman and technical Ham both. Find a book that suites your level of understanding and dig in.

Next time – More on Gain, Angle of Radiation and Radiation Patterns

*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.*



**Results of the May 12th
BVARC Amateur License Examination Sessions
by: John Moore, KK5NU**

Results of the May 12th 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, May 12, 2015 at HCC's Scarcella Science & Technology Building here in Stafford, TX.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

LarryJacobson, K5LJ

John Moore, KK5NU

George Ontko, KM5VP

Robert B. Tomlinson, N5JSL

Two examination elements were administered during the evening to two applicants. One new Technician class, with grandfathered upgrade to General class and one upgrade to General 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:

William G. Leska - KG5HEC - General

Parkay Louie - {KG5HQA} - General

Many thanks to all the Team Members and Assistants who volunteer their valuable time and effort each month. All of us A 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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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: x

2/16 - 25 - Ron, k5hm	3/23 - 34 - Pete, kd5qpx	4/27 - 32 - Pete, kd5qpx
2/23 - 23 - Cam, k5cam	3/30 - 24 - Terry, k5pgf	5/4 - 19 - David, k5ekw
3/2 - 29 - David, n5ekw	4/6 - 39 - David, n5ekw	5/11 - 44 - Pete, kd5qpx
3/9 - 20 - Rick, w5rh	4/13 - 25 - Rick, w5rh	5/18 - 27 - Cam, k5cam
3/16 - 28 - Ron, k5hm	4/20 - 20 - Ron, k5hm	5/25 - 16 - Pete, kd5qpx



2015 Officers:

President:

Bill Stone, WS5H
dragntow@wt.net

Vice President:

Michael Hardwick, N5VCX
n5vcx@att.net

Corresponding Secretary
Stephanie Vessey K5SFV
K5SFV@att.net

Treasurer
Robert Tomlinson, N5JSL
rbtswim@gmail.com

Recording Secretary:
Michael Monsour, AC0TX
msircg@gmail.com

2 Year At-Large Board
Jerry Muller, K9GEM
gmuller885@aol.com

2 Year At-Large Board Member B:
Scott Medbury KD5FBA
smedbury@windstream.net

1 Year Past President Board Member
Darrell Kirk KC5JAR
darrellk_us@yahoo.com

Club Happenings:

General Meeting

Second Thursday each month, 7:30 PM
2511 Eldridge Rd, Sugar Land, 77478, Eldridge Park Conference Center (Check page 1)

Board of Directors Meeting

First Thursday of each month, 7:00 PM
Bayland Park Community Center
Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet,

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 (167.9) at 8:00 PM



Advertising in the BVARC Newsletter

Rates are as follows; \$25 per month for ½ page, \$125 for six months and \$250 for one year. The rates for a full page are as follows; \$50 per month, \$250 for six months and \$500 for the year.



BVARC EATING SCHEDULE

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

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

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

OTHER HAM GROUPS:

WEDNESDAYS – WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH

LUBY'S CAFETERIA, 10:30a.m. to 12:00Noon +, South Post Oak Road, just south of the I-610 Loop in Meyer Park Shopping Center.

WEDNESDAYS – AMSAT & QRP GROUP

PAPPAS BARBECUE. 11:30a.m., SW corner Westheimer & Gessner.



Hamfests

(within 200 miles of Houston)

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

06/12/2015 | [West Gulf Division Convention \(Ham-Com\)](#)

Location: Irving, TX

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Plano ARC, Dallas ARC, & Irving ARC

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

07/18/2015 | [Tidelands Hamfest](#)

Location: Texas City, TX

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Tidelands Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://tidelands.org>

NOTE: Every 3 – 4 months, this full officer's, club and eating info is published in the newsletter. For the intervening months, an abbreviated version is published but the complete info is on the BVARC website.



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@arrl.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-©-(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 Eldridge Park Conference Center, 2511 Eldridge Rd, Sugar Land, 77478,

. . . General membership dues are \$25.00 per year, with student dues \$10.00 per year, additional family members \$5.00 per member per year and life membership \$250.00.

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 Scarella 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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JUNE 2015

**BRAZOS VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
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SUGAR LAND, TX 77487-2997
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

**Museum Ship's Weekend – June 5, 6 & 7
May General Membership Meeting – June 11
Field Day – June 27 & 28**

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