



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2015

VOLUME 39 ISSUE 11

BVARC NOVEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7:30 PM, Thursday, November 12th, 2015

421 Eldridge Rd, Sugar Land, 77478, Sugar Land Masonic Lodge

What time is it? It's Time for Chili and the Club Elections!

It is that time of the year again – chili supper and elections. Both are important for the club's survival. The chili supper provides club members with nourishment (some people call it that) while the elections provides the club with leadership and direction. Without one or the other the club will die (I am stretching the point on the chili supper). Without club members taking a leadership for the club, BVARC will become like so many amateur radio clubs across Houston and the US...gone. So many clubs are on life support in one form or another or just barely making it. So step up and volunteer for the board of directors for BVARC and help the club survive.



OCTOBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING REPORT

I bet most of you have always wondered what a repeater looks like

I bet the title threw you off since the program was changed at last minute. I thought I would just get your attention with the wrong title.

For the ones that did make it to the meeting, you know we had an excellent presentation on the voice radio system for the Texas Department of Transportation - TxDOT. Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW, state technical manager for TxDOT explained how the radio system operates for state's transportation system. He explained all the details of the system as well as some other systems. There is one item that needed correcting from his presentation – there are 900 to 1200 users per each cellular telephone tower site.



Upcoming Meetings

Mark your calendars for upcoming BVARC meetings. I know you would not want to miss the meetings.

November 12 th	Elections & Chili Supper	Rick Hiller, W5RH for elections Michael Monsour, AC0TX for chili
December 10 th	D-Star	Alan Isaachsen, KB2WF
January 15 th 2016	BVARC Annual Banquet	Ron Litt, K5HM
February 11 th , 2016	Emergency Communications – Go Kit Info	Kerry Mallory, AE5JY

We need more ideas for club meetings. If there is something you would to know more about, let me know and I will try and arrange it for one of the general meetings.

The Vice Prez Says

The end of the year is almost here. Looking back over the year BVARC has had many ups and downs. A few of the ups were:

- The Greater Houston Hamfest became the ARRL state convention for the first time. It also broke the 1000 mark on participants for the first time. The Hamfest had Dr. Joe Taylor, K1JT as a guest speaker.
- Field day was a roaring success this year. Over 80 people attended over the three days of set-up, operation and tear down. From simple dipole antennas to tri-banders up at 60' on a man lift, BVARC's field day had it. We came out 1st in our category and 5th overall (first time we hit the top 10).

A couple of the downs were:

- We lost our club President, William "Bill" Stone, WS5H. Bill kept his spirit up to the last. He kept working on the club's activities to the last. He will be missed.
- Les Jones, W5WRN. Les was a life time member who worked at EPO through 2013 (I believe). He helped the club on prizes for the Hamfest and was always there when you had a question at EPO.

With the ups and downs, the club moves forward to a new year.

It is time for the club elections. The club needs your help as a club officer to manage and coordinate all of the aspects of running the largest amateur radio club in Houston. If you have the time and would like to get more involved in the club functions, please contact Rick Hiller, W5RH, and let him know you are interested in running for office. A nomination can also be made from the floor but please make sure no one is surprised by hearing their name called out in a nomination. The positions that will be open are: president, recording secretary, two year director, one year director. Please consider running for one of the positions on the BVARC board of directors.

The BVARC banquet is on schedule and will be held on Friday January 15th, 2016. Ron Litt, K5HM is the coordinator for the banquet and will be let everyone know the details about costs and such. Stay tuned for Ron's article, e-mails and web information in the near future.

73,
Mike
N5VCX



If I could write the Technician Exam . .

by
Ron Litt, K5HM

"That @#\$\$%#@# test is too easy!!" "Any idiot can get a Tech license today without even studying", or so goes the conventional wisdom.

Question 1: What is Ohm's Law?

- A, A Buddhist Chant
- B, The name of a 15th Century law governing marriage
- C, Describes the relationship between current and electrical potential in a conductor
- D, Is a derivative of Maxwell's Equation

Question 2. A Colpitts Oscillator is:

- A, The opposite of a Hartley Oscillator
- B, Part of a washing machine
- C, The part that causes the motel bed to vibrate
- D, None of the above

Question 3: Before climbing a tower, you should

- A, Wear clean underwear, in case you have to be taken to a hospital
- B, Carry your medical insurance card.
- C, Wear a brightly colored safety vest so your body can be found in the dark
- D, All of the above.

Each month, I will add a few more questions to my new Technician exam. Anyone who wants to submit some questions of their own, will be welcome. Just send them to K5HM@arrl.net



Minutes of the October 3rd, 2015 Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Mike Hardwick called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to at 10:00 am on October 3rd, 2015, at Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston 77074. Attending were: Mike Hardwick N5VCX (V.P.), Donovan Balli KD5BDZ (Treas.), Michael Monsour ACØTX (Rec.Sec./Quart.) Scott Medbury KD5FBA (2yr At-Large Dir), Jerry Muller K9GEM (2yr At-Large Dir.), Jon Noxon KF5TFJ

Reports:

- 1.1 A motion was made and passed to accept last month's minutes.
- 1.2 The Treasurer's Report is tabled till next meeting, only minor expenses and a few memberships occurred.
- 1.3 The preferred way to accept new or renew memberships is to go on line via credit card or Pay Pal.

Old Business:

- 2.1 Bill Stone's memorial service was very well attended.
- 2.2 Need a second key for the Masonic Lodge
- 2.3 From Nathan, regarding the Hamfest, no big changes.
- 2.4 Future meetings: Chili Supper and elections, Scott Medbury talked with the Sugar Land Skeeters so they will be the judges.
- 2.5 Dec 10 will be D-Star, January 15 will be the Banquet. February 11 will have a presentation on Go Kits, March 10 will be Home Brew contest.
- 2.6 Facility Committee consists of Scott Medbury and Pete Sauermilch. BVARC uses the present Masonic setup of chairs and tables.

New Business:

- 3.1 Event Committee to coordinate various events or to think of new events. Perhaps have a barbecue after events to increase participation.
- 3.2 A Donation Committee needs to be set up to determine how to distribute BVARC donations. Discussion seemed to go towards institutions that BVARC has a relationship with, for an example HCC, site of VE sessions and the Fire Field.
- 3.3 Rick Hiller came up with the idea of having a 'marketing czar' to market events.
- 3.4 Wings over Houston is in great need of amateurs to participate.

Meeting adjourned at 11:13 am

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Michael Monsour ACØTX



BVARC Monday Night NET Updates

Don't forget the BVARC Monday Night Net starts at **8 pm** on 146.94 (167.9). The order of check-ins starts 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 Mark, mark@mcgrath-co.com, if you are interested. Here are recent check-ins with control-ops:

7/13 23 - Rick, w5rh	8/17 - 35 - Ron, k5hm	9/21 - 26 - Cam, k5cam
7/20 - 15 - Ron, k5hm	8/24 - 27 - Pete, kd5qpx	9/28 - 23 - Cam, k5cam
7/27 - 28 - Rick, w5rh	8/31 - 31 - Terry, k5pgf	10/5 - 22 - David, n5ekw
8/3 - 29 - Rick, w5rh	9/7 - 16 - David, n5ekw	10/12 - 20 - Steve, kf5yyv
8/10 - 29 - Rick, w5rh	9/14 - 28 - Rick, w5rh	10/19 - 26 - Ron, k5hm





BVARC Elections

Step up! Step up! Don't be shy!

On the ballot at our imminent November 12th meeting are open slots for BVARC **President**, **Recording Secretary**, **2 Year-at-Large** and **1 Year-at-Large** Board of Directors members.

If you, or someone you know, would like to join the current BVARC Board of Directors in running the club for 2016 and 2017, please, contact me, **Rick Hiller – W5RH** at rhiller@sdicgm.com or **832-474-3713(cell)**.

3 former BVARC Presidents (Kirk, KK2Z and Mike, N5VCX) and I make up the 2015 Election Committee.

We look forward to hearing from you.



BVARC Rag Chew Net

09/23/15, W5TKZ, (NCS), KF5TFJ, W5HFF, AA5OA, KE5OBY, K5IZO/5 (Jasper), K5LJ, W5RH, AF5T, AE4DJ, W5TOM, K5LKJ, KD5O. (13 Check-Ins)
Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 107, SN = 79, A = 14, K = 2

09/30/15, K5LKJ (NCS), W5JRI (Sulfur, LA), W5TKZ, KF5TFJ, KF5OXF (Needville), K5JZ (Humble), K5LJ, KE5OBY, K5IZO, W5HFF, K0NM, AF5T, W5TOM, AA5OA, AA0ST (Dickinson), W5RH, KD5FBA. (17 Check-Ins)
Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 133, SN = 125, A = 6, K = 8

10/07/15, N/A (NCS), W5TOM, KF5TFJ, K5IZO, K5LKJ (4 Check-Ins)
Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 88, SN = 24, A = 77, K = 5

10/14/15, K5LKJ (NCS), WB9FOP (Katy), K5WRN, W5HFF, KC5JAR (Katy), W5TKZ, K5IZO, KF5TFJ, W5TOM, K5LJ, KE5OBY, W5HFF, K0NM, WA5CYI, AA0ST (Dickenson), KA5QQA. (13 Check-Ins)
Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 102, SN = 58, A = 25, K = 3

10/21/15, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, KC5JAR (Katy), KF5TFJ, AA5OA, W5HFF, K5IZO, K5LJ, KE5OBY, KG5BMS, W5TOM, AF5T, N5EKW (Katy), K0NM (R), AA0ST (Dickinson), KD5O, WA5CYI, AF5XL. (19 Check-Ins)
Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 127, SN = 77, A = 9, K = 2

(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





**Results of the October 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, October 13, 2015 at HCC's Scarcella Science & Technology Building here in Stafford, TX.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
John Moore, KK5NU
George Ontko, KM5VP

Four examination elements were administered during the evening to four applicants. One new Technician class and two upgrades to General class license were attained, with the total number of elements passed being 3. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 75%.

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

Robert J. Bailey	- {KG5JWX}	- Technician
Michael P. Donoghue	- KG5BMS	- General
Charles N. Perry	- KD5UCM	- 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



Hamfests

(within 200 miles of Houston)

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

01/09/2016 | San Antonio Radio Club Fiesta

Location: Schertz, TX
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: San Antonio Radio Club
Website: <http://w5sc.org>

03/18 & 03/19, 2016 | South Texas Section Convention (Greater Houston Hamfest)

Location: Rosenberg, TX
Type: ARRL Convention
Sponsor: Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://www.houstonhamfest.org/>



Radiosport Items of Note for November 2015

For a complete list of contests click the link below
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

State QSO Parties – An easy way to try a contest for the first time. 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.

State QSO Parties

- Kentucky QSO Party Nov 14-

Mixed Mode Contests

- Ukrainian DX Context Nov 7-8
- LZ DX Contest Nov 21-22

SSB Contests

- JIDX Phone Contest Nov 14-15 All Asian DX Contest, Phone Sept 5-6
- WAE DX Contest SSB, Sept 12-13
- North American Collegiate ARC SSB Nov- 21-23
- ARRL Sweepstakes, SSB Nov 21-23

CW Contests

- High Speed CW Club Content November 1st
- North American Collegiate ARC Championship, CW Nov 7-9
- ARRL Sweepstakes, CW Nov 7-9
- CQ WW DX CW Contest Nov 28-29

Digital Contests

- DARC 10 Meter Digital Contest Nov 8
- WAE DX Contest RTTY Nov 14-15
- 10-10 Fall Digital Contest Nov 14-15

Selected Special Event Activities

- EXTR Hour Special Event , W8BAP, Celebrates the End of Daylight Savings
- Veterans Day 11/7 – 11/8 , 11/11 Veterans day Special Event, Various
- 40th Anniversary of the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald 11/10 W8F
- 100 Anniversary of QST Magazine WE7GV 11/14

And The Ever Popular . . .

- Oklahoma Statehood Special Event 11/14 K5EOK

For details on every Special Event in August, go to

http://www.arrl.org/special_events/search/page:3/Date.start:2015-09-01/Date.end:2015-09-30/model:Event





Where in the World is . . .

Chesterfield Islands (FK/C, TX3)
CQ Zone 30 IOTA OC-176

The official prefix for this entity is FK/C denoting it is part of New Caledonia, a French territory comprising hundreds of islands in the South Pacific. If you listen carefully you can probably hear the strains of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Bali Hai* from the musical, *South Pacific*.

“Ah yes, “Most people live on a lonely island, in the middle of a foggy sea . . . “ but I digress.

The Chesterfields are an archipelago of New Caledonia located in the Coral Sea, 340 miles northwest of the main island of New Caledonia.

You might remember the Coral Sea as the place, where the US Navy stopped the Japanese advance on Australia in WW II. The battle is unique as the first naval battle where opposing ships never came in sight of each other.

Sometimes referred to as the Chesterfield Reefs, they are the most important of a number of uninhabited coral sand cays.

Some are awash and liable to shift with the wind while others are stabilized by the growth of grass, creepers and low trees. The Chesterfield Reefs are now part of the territory of New Caledonia.

The Perseverance DX Group assembled a team of 12 operators, 7 Elecraft K-Line stations and two Expert Linears 1.3K FA's. The equipment Along with all the usual stuff - Keyers, computers, antennas, food, medical supplies, generators and gasoline was loaded aboard the Expedition vessel, *Evohe*. And the team set out for a brisk ocean cruise to an uninhabited island.





The team arrived on the island on 23 Sept and went QRT on 11 Oct about 1700 UTC.

The last DXpedition to Chesterfield was TX3A in 2009. According to Clublog's list of most wanted DX entities, Chesterfield ranks 21st on the list. Congratulations to all whose signal made the trip.

Reporting from the Dark Side,
Ron, K5HM





BVARC Historical Vignettes – BVARC’s Standing Roll Call

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

Have you ever wondered how the custom of having a standing roll call at the BVARC general membership meetings originated? The custom was already established when I joined BVARC in September 1985. The early club newsletters from before that time do not provide much information about what occurred at general membership meetings.

The first newsletter to contain any significant details about a general membership meeting was in September 1979. Program director Dick Hagerman, WB5SRN, discussed the program schedule for the August, September and October meetings. However, specific details of what took actually took place at the meeting do not appear in the newsletter.

The following year, in August 1980, Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG, became editor of the newsletter. Stu worked very hard at improving the club newsletter and more and more details regarding club meetings and activities began to appear in the newsletter. The B-Varc Bulletin (as Stu named it) was published every month and became a top notch club newsletter.

The February 1981 B-Varc Bulletin contained the minutes of the January 1981 general membership meeting. The minutes of the club meeting, written by the club secretary Phil Steinbach, WB5SUR, mention a “standing progressive roll call.”

B-Varc BULLETIN
February 1981

AT THE JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The meeting was called to order by the outgoing president and the new officers and directors for 1981 were introduced. The incoming president, Richard N5KV then took charge of the meeting.

Bob Spradling W5UBD, the outgoing president, was presented with the Club's first "Order of the Key" award for his outstanding leadership and service to the Club during 1980.

A standing progressive roll call followed, with non-member visitors being especially recognized and welcomed.

The standing roll call clearly dates back to the earliest years of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club. Our club was formed in September 1977 and the club newsletters indicate that the standing roll call at general membership meetings was already established in January 1981. The BVARC standing roll call has been a part of our club's history for 35 years.





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Submitted by Recording Secretary, Michael Monsour ACØTX





The Radio Hotel[®] - The Antenna - Part 9 by W5RH

The Antenna -- c'est tout! References for Learning More

The Radio Hotel – The Antenna series has to end sometime and that time is now. (Thank goodness, say most of you -- HI) To be fair to those few that would like it to continue, I am going to give you a big shove. Not physically, but knowledge-wise. Throughout this series I have tried to engage that inner technical Ham in you so that you will read and investigate and build and use and measure. In this last TRH--The Antenna submission, I want to provide you with some books, some articles and some online references that you can chase down to learn more.

Fundamentally, what you really want to do is understand how our antenna “systems” work -- what influences their performance, the interactions of the individual parts, why certain antennas are better at DX or at multi-banding, etc. Before I get into the references I want to leave you these two thoughts:

1-- Antennas should always be looked at as a “system” consisting of the RF source, transmission line, matching networks (if any) and the load – the antenna itself.

2--A firm grasp of the fundamental principles and characteristics of antennas and transmission lines is absolutely essential for it to all make sense.

Reading references: Antenna Books

ARRL Antenna Handbook – 1939 (Vol 1) thru 2015 (Vol 23) preferably a later edition

Low Band DX'ing – ON4UN Current edition is #5, but Publication # 4 is on-line free. Excellent.

Verticals – Paul Lee – N6PL

Antennas – Bill Orr (any Bill Orr Book – Beams, Quads, etc.)

Reading references: Recent Articles --

QST -- November 2015 – “Antenna Gain”

QST – Any month – “The Dr. is In” column – Joel Hallas, W1ZR (also, any article by Joel Hallas)

QST – March 2015—The Antenna Issue – the whole issue is filled with antenna system goodies.

QST – Any month “Hands On Radio” column –Ward Silver – N0AX -- occasional antenna topics

Reading references: On-Line

www.BVARC.org – Tech Articles Page – Antenna articles by knowledgeable club members

www.ac6v.com – Antenna Projects

www.arrl.org – QST Archives 1915 to the present – search on any subject

K1TTT.net – Tech Reference page

W8JI.com – Antennas – Highly technical, but filled with good, solid information

So, with that, I wish you well. Antenna systems are quite interesting and can keep your experimenting urge very busy for many years. Tune in and turn on to antennas. They are your pathway to on-air Ham Radio enjoyment. Yes, I write these articles, but I certainly don't claim to know it all. I simply have a keen interest in the subject. So if you have a question or need a publication referral to answer a query on your part, I'd be pleased to help you. My contact info is in the BVARC roster. Don't hesitate to use it. Enjoy your hobby. 73.....Rick – W5RH

Next time.... Analyzing with Antenna Analyzers

*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.*



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. Detailed information will be published in the newsletter every 3 or 4 months. Similarly, the "Eating Schedule" will be published every 3 or 4 months unless there is a change.

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 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Sugar Land Masonic Lodge, 421 Eldridge Rd, Sugar Land, 77478. Check the above website for any possible changes.

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 281-701-7602 or see the BVARC website: www.bvarc.org

Other contacts include:

Acting President:, Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, n5vcx@att.net

Newsletter Editor, John Chauvin, K5IZO, k5izo@yahoo.com

VOLUME 39, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2015

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

November General Membership Meeting – November 12



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