



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

JULY 2016

VOLUME 40 ISSUE 7

## BVARC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, Thursday, July 14

What goes up, must communicate!

Have you ever wondered what are the communications systems on the International Space Station? Well wonder no more. For the July BVARC general meeting Kyle Brewer, AE5IJ, of NASA will be the guest speaker to explain the different systems on the space station. So Bring your questions and comments for Kyle and test his knowledge. I know he will be a wealth of information.



### About the June Meeting

Momma told me there'd be days like that! June was planned to be a glorious recap of Museum Ships Weekend, you know, the thousands of contacts swamping operators and a good time had by all. Instead, as briefly reported, the heavy rain in Galveston and street flooding prevented us from even reaching the Stewart and the local event was cancelled.

With the FD Co-Chairmen not in attendance, Allen (N5XZ) stepped up and led a planning session for Field Day. The planning worked, 'cause despite the heat and humidity we had another great Field Day experience. Thanks to all the BVARC, TXDX, and ECHO guys and gals who came to the meeting.

And finally, the demonstration of sound card setups for operating digital modes will be presented at a later meeting.



## The Prez Says

We are well into summer and two of the club's biggest events are now behind us. Unfortunately one event did not happen due to weather conditions.

Museum Ships Weekend was cancelled Saturday morning due to weather fronts that looked threatening and possibly dangerous. In fact, several operators were unable to make it to Galveston due high water and road flooding. Since MSWE was cancelled for 2016, that only means one thing – bigger and better for 2017. Mark Janzer is already talking about having a few “work days” on the Stewart to be better prepared for the 2017 event. If you would like to help out on the work parties, contact Mark and let him know.

The 2016 Tri-Club Field Day Event is over. Members of BVARC, ECHO and TDXS did a wonderful job of putting the stations and antennas together and having a successful event. Mike Davidson, N5MT, and myself were the co-chairs of the event but we were only two people out of the nearly 40 club members that worked over the weekend putting everything together. The operators had over 3000 contacts in the 24 hour contest operating as an 8A classification. There are so many people that helped out, it would be difficult to name everyone. I do thank everyone for their hard work and I am ready for the 2017 event.

For those who missed Ham-Com this year, it was an interesting event. Even though it was in a first class facility, the attendance was down. I hope that the Greater Houston Hamfest has the right formula since our attendance was up by 25%. Time will tell.

The July meeting will have an interesting speaker – Kyle Brewer, KE5IJ, of NASA will be there to explain all the different communications system on the International Space Station. Hope to see everyone at the general meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

73, N5VCX



### **BVARC BOD & Greater Houston Hamfest Meeting Schedules July to December 2016**

Meetings will be held at Bayland Community Center except for the September meetings due to the Labor Day Weekend. The BOD meeting will be a conference call that will be held on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The call-in information will be posted on the BVARC web site the week of the meeting.

The Greater Houston Hamfest organizational meetings will be held immediately after the BOD meeting except in September. The Hamfest meeting will be held on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. The location will be published the week of the meeting on the BVARC web site.

July 9 <sup>th</sup>	Bayland Community Center	9:00 am to 10:30 am 10:30 am to 12 noon	BOD Meeting Greater Houston Hamfest
August 6 <sup>th</sup>	Bayland Community Center	9:00 am to 10:30 am 10:30 am to 12 noon	BOD Meeting Greater Houston Hamfest
September 1 <sup>st</sup>	Conference call	7:00 pm to 8:00 pm	BOD Meeting
September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Location TBD	2:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Greater Houston Hamfest
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Bayland Community Center	9:00 am to 10:30 am 10:30 am to 12 noon	BOD Meeting Greater Houston Hamfest
November 5 <sup>th</sup>	Bayland Community Center	9:00 am to 10:30 am 10:30 am to 12 noon	BOD Meeting Greater Houston Hamfest
December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bayland Community Center	9:00 am to 10:30 am 10:30 am to 12 noon	BOD Meeting Greater Houston Hamfest

**Results of the June 14th  
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, June 14, 2016 at HCC's Scarcella Science & Technology Building here in Stafford, TX.

**MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:**

Richard Goldy, K5GOL  
Larry Jacobson, K5LJ

Mark Janzer, K5MGJ  
John Moore, KK5NU

George Ontko, KM5VP

One examination element was administered during the evening to one applicant. One new Technician class license was attained, with the total number of elements passed being 1. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

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

Clark T. Maxwell - {KG5OEP} - 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.

... 73 ...



**Minutes of the June 2nd, 2016 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 7:02 PM on June 2nd, 2016, on a conference telephone call. Attending were:

Mike Hardwick N5VCX (President.), Donovan Balli KD5BDZ (Treas.), Michael Monsour ACØTX (Rec.Sec./Quart.), Jon Noxon KF5TFJ (Vice President), Jo L Keener KE7NSB (2yr At-Large Dir) Scott Medbury KD5FBA (2yr At-Large Dir), Jerry Muller K9GEM (1yr At-Large Dir.) Mark Janzer KF5FLZ

**Reports:**

- 1.1 A motion was made and passed to accept the May minutes.
- 1.2 A motion was made and passed to accept the Treasurer's report

**Old Business:**

- 2.1 The refund check has been deposited in the BVARC account.
- 2.2 A general Hamfest meeting will be in July after the Board meeting.
- 2.3 The Fairgrounds has already been secured.
- 2.4 Museum Ships will occur as planned and credentials are prepared for participants.
- 2.5 Field Day will at Pecan Grove Volunteer Fire Department on Pitts Road at Hwy 90. On June 11 there will be, for Field Day organization meeting.
- 2.6 Field Day food will be breakfast tacos for Saturday and Sunday, sandwiches for Saturday and Sunday lunch and hamburgers and hot dogs for Saturday evening.
- 2.7 General meetings: June will feature Museum Ships, Field Day and digital modes.
- 2.8 July meeting will probably feature Space Communications.
- 2.9 August is Ice Cream Social.
- 2.10 Masonic Lodge contract: Work is progressing on lighting and restrooms issues.

**New Business:**

- 3.1 Scott Medbury is working on getting Constellation Field for Winter Field Day.
- 3.2 Next Field Day meeting will be on June 9 during the general meeting. On June 11 there will be Field Day meeting from 2 pm to 4pm, location TBD.
- 3.3 July 9<sup>th</sup> will be the next Board meeting 9am to 10:30am, there will be a Hamfest meeting from 10:30 to noon afterwards.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Michael Monsour ACØTX

## MSWE 2016 results

Michael Monsour (AC0TX) – with editing by the editor

NA5DV,

Battleship Texas Amateur Radio Station worked 303 contacts and 18 museum ships with the furthest contact being Sydney, Australia on 40 meters at 11:40pm Texas time. Operators included, K9GEM Jerry Mueller; N5KT Gerald Doucet; WA5ARI Reid Shipp and KA5OXA, Mike Brannan. **Additional operators and bands would be welcome.** Antennas included an Alpha antenna 60 foot J-Pole and the ship's vertical.

AC0TX,

French Liberty Ship Grandcamp [Saturday] and the Liberty Ship High Flyer [Sunday] worked a combined 520 contacts and a combined 15 ships. There were 16 Canadian contacts as well as Northern Ireland and Cayman Islands. Operators were TARS on Saturday and AC0TX Michael Monsour and AA7EJ Vaclav Sal on Sunday. **Additional operators to activate more bands will be welcomed on Sunday.** Antennas included a 20-meter beam, a 40-meter dipole and a 20-meter Delta Loop

N5E,

The Tall Ship Elissa worked a total of 874 contacts with 15 ships. The following countries were worked; Cuba, St. Martin, Isle of Mann, Switzerland, Haiti, Columbia, Canada, Venezuela, Belgium, Poland. The bands worked on Saturday were 40, 20, 17, 15, 2 meters with 40, 20 and 17 meters being worked on Sunday. Saturday's antennas were a MFJ 'Big Ear', MFJ vertical tuned to 17meters, Screwdriver antenna on 15 and a Transworld vertical on 20. Sunday's antennas were 2 MFJ 'Big Ear' antennas and a Transworld vertical for 10/20 meters.

KK5W

USS Stewart and USS Cavalla, Seawolf Park Galveston – BVARC – The event was cancelled Saturday morning due to weather fronts that looked threatening and possibly dangerous. See "The Prez Says" for more details.



AA5OP Joe Wileman, N5ECE Wink Chamberland and Rebel the dog at AC0TX MSWE



TARS ECOM mobile radio shack at AC0TX MSWE

**Where in the World is . . .  
Canada (VE, VA, VO, VY)  
CQ Zone1, 2, 3, 4, 5**

It's so big and so close you might actually overlook it or not count it as DX. As I write this Canadians to the North are celebrating Canada Day (July 1) or Fête du Canada.

Canada is officially bi-lingual; everywhere you go in Canada things are both English and French. I sometimes feel there is an echo as I write this, EH?

Despite the crummy propagation, the bands are awash today with Canadian hams, participating in the annual Canada Day Contest, sponsored by the Radio amateurs of Canada/Radio Amateurs du Canada. See what I mean, EH?

It is the national day of Canada, celebrating the anniversary of the July 1, 1867, enactment of the Constitution Act, 1867 (then called the British North America Act, 1867), which united three colonies into a single country called **Canada** within the British Commonwealth. In 1982, it was officially renamed Canada Day.



It's hard to miss. After all it is just north of Dallas. Canada's population is around 35 million, 80% of whom live within 100 miles of the U.S. border. Who could blame them, EH? If I lived in Canada, I would need to be close to a Walmart.

The rest of Canada is pretty empty with a population density of only 1 person per 2.75 square miles. Wow! What a remote antenna farm that would make, EH? And no HOA's either.

Canadians are great people. Some of the most laid back people I've met are from Canada, rather than California. And, for the most part, they like Americans and its easy to figure out their Currency, the Canadian Dollar.

Some say they speak funny and they have spelling problems with certain words like colour, calibre and tonnes. That shouldn't bother anyone; the U.S. schools gave up on spelling some time ago. Besides it's quaint, EH?

Like the U.S., Canada has multiple DX entities within its territory. The uninhabited islands off the coast of Nova Scotia, with the DX prefixes of CY0 (Sable Island) and CY9 (St. Paul Island) are Canadian territory.



Reporting from the Dark Side, EH?  
Ron, K5HM



# **The Radio Hotel- what's in QST – Antenna Wise?**

**By Rick Hiller -- W5RH**

New Ham Radio information comes out on a daily basis on the web. But, once a month we look forward to the mail box (E or USPS) to be blessed with the next month's QST magazine – the only print/digital rag still being published on a “regular” basis. Lots of good information is to be gleaned, especially in the antenna realm, where new things are being tried on a continual basis. Also, antenna system theory descriptions are being refined and re-explained in a more modern vernacular. QST articles can be found, if you are an ARRL member, on the ARRL web site QST search page. Good thing they are on line, because it used to take a garage full of boxes of old magazines (and silverfish) to have access to QST published since 1915. Now it is on-demand – instant electronic availability. Sweet! So, what is in QST Antenna-wise for the past 2.5 years? Lots of good articles and references, that's what.....

## **Monthly columns:**

**The Dr. Is In** – Joel Hallas – Antenna system questions, also has a bi-weekly Pod-Cast

**Hands On Radio** – Ward Silver – occasional antenna and transmission line subjects

## **QST Antenna article subjects from 2014 thru 2016:**

### **2014**

January – Screw Driver Portable HF Antenna.

February – Stealth Antenna for HF, 40 Meter Small Space Vertical

March – Annual “Antenna Issue”

April – Hen-Tenna Mod and Shared Apex Receiving Loop

May – Coax Cable Vertical Dipole and Coaxial Cable Tips (Page 47)

June – 6M Quad, 2 Element 40, TLW Software, Antenna Coupler (ATU)

August – Tape Measure Vertical

September – Antenna Mast Safety

October – EDZ HF Yagi

### **2015**

January – Remote Antenna Switch

February – Measuring Antenna Traps

March – Annual “Antenna Issue”

June – Baluns

July – Rebuilding 160 M Flag and Repairing Mosley Beams

September – 2 Meter Yagi for Portable Ops

November – Antenna Gain Part 1

December – Antenna Gain Part 2

### **2016**

January – Antenna Gain Part 3

February – Introduction to Coaxial Cable and Radio Wave Propagation

March – Annual “Antenna Issue”

April – Ground Influence on Antenna Patterns and Antenna Modeling

May – Full Wave Loops, 40 M and Multi-band Rotatable Dipoles

June – Counterpoise Tuner, Seaside Verticals, Beverage Receive Antennas, Loops

Also--- Check out the assorted commercial antenna system related product reviews throughout the year.

Enjoy your hobby. GL ES 73 DE W5RH  
**Next time.... 50 ohm Feedpoint Yagi's in EZNEC**

The purpose of **The Radio Hotel** is to give you a practical kickstart into exploring the workings of antenna systems  
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.



## BVARC Rag Chew Net

05/25/16, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TOM, K5IZO, W5HFF, W5TKZ, KF5TFJ, AA5OA, KD5O, W5RH, AA0ST (Dickinson), WA5KXG, KF5PFA, AF5XL. (13 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 93, SN = 24, A = 6, K = 1

06/01/16, K5LKJ (NCS), W5HFF, KF5TFJ, W5TKZ, N5EKW (Katy), W5RH, AA0ST (Dickinson), AF5T. (8 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 86, SN = 40, A = 10, K = 2

06/08/16, K5LKJ (NCS), KF5TFJ, K5IZO/5 (Jasper), W5TKZ, W5RH, K5LJ, W5CQG (Milam), KD5O, AA5OA, WA5KXG, N5EKW (Katy), AA0ST (Dickinson), AF5MS/5 (Brenham), KF5PHA. (14 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 79, SN = 12, A = 9, K = 2

06/15/16, W5TKZ (NCS), KF5TFJ, AA0ST (Dickinson), K5LJ, KF5ONT, W5HFF, AF5XL, KD5FBA, K5IZO, WA5KXG. (10 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 86, SN = 26, A = 21, K = 2

06/22/16, W5TKZ (NCS), W5HFF, KF5TFJ, K5LJ, KC5JAR (Katy), KG5KMN, AF5T, AG5HR, K5IZO, AA0ST (Dickinson), WA5KXG, KG5FQX, AF5MS, W5KGZ. (14 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 78, SN = 22, A = 16, K = 5

(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



## BVARC Monday Night Public Service 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 Rick, w5rh, if you are interested. Here are recent check-ins with control-ops:

3/14 - 23 - Steve, kf5yyv	4/18 - 26 - Ron, k5hm	5/23 - 23 - Clint, kf5hdf
3/21 - 19 - Ron, k5hm	4/25 - 28 - Clint, kf5hdf	5/30 - 12 - Terry, k5pgf
3/28 - 29 - Clint, kf5hdf	5/2 - 28 - Dave, n5ekw	6/6 - 23 - Dave, n5ekw
4/4 - 27 - Rick, w5rh	5/9 - 31 - Steve, kf5yyv	6/13 - 18 - Steve, kf5yyv
4/11 - 20 - Steve, kf5yyv	5/16 - 24 - Ron, k5hm	6/20 - 22 - Ron, k5hm

### BVARC QUICK STATS

Date	Members	Newsletters	Life Members
6/25/16	201	203	66

# 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 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 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., Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, n5vcx@att.net

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

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**BRAZOS VALLEY  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

**BVARC General Membership Meeting – Thursday, July 14**



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