



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

JANUARY 2017

VOLUME 41 ISSUE 1

## In January: 2017 Annual Banquet

Ed. note: The Annual Banquet replaces the monthly meeting in January  
Ron Litt, K5HM

Coming soon! Sooner than you expect! The BVARC Annual Banquet is scheduled for Friday evening, January 13th. at Maggiano's Little Italy, 2010 Post Oak Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77056.

Get ready for an evening of fun, frivolity fellowship and great food. So don't be shy.

Cocktails and drinks will begin at 6 PM in the Trentino Room on the second floor of the restaurant. An elevator is available. There will be a cash bar.

Banquet tickets are \$30 per person. Advance reservations only. Sorry; we have to provide the restaurant with a firm headcount in advance. All payments must be received no later than January 5th. Checks or payments received after that date will be returned.

Visit the club website <http://www.bvarc.org> for reservations and payment info.  
See more details in the full article in this issue.



## About the December Meeting

In spite of a light turnout, we had a good time with a home brew demonstrations (complete with awesome prize for the winner) and an auction of donated goodies. Special thanks to Clint Davis, AF5QS, for a generous donation of Tektronix Oscilloscopes. They went for bargain prices, so word of advice: don't miss the next auction!



## Museum Ships Weekend Work Day

Submitted by Mark Janzer, K5MGJ

In preparation for Museum Ships Weekend (June 2017), we've scheduled a work day on board the USS Stewart for Sunday, January 15th.

We plan to do some cleaning within the radio room and antenna work. We'll possibly do some on-the-air operating as a demonstration for the scouts that will be on board that weekend.

We'll have a late lunch there (grilled meats). Tentatively we'll meet at Seawolf Park, on Pelican Island, in Galveston, at about 10am. Contact Mark Janzer (K5MGJ) for coordination.



## The Prez Says

The New Year is finally here and BVARC continues getting closer to its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday – September 16<sup>th</sup>. The club starts another chapter in the amateur radio world as the largest active club in the greater Houston area it starts with a serious issue.

As I have mentioned several times over the year, the club needs to look toward the future. The club still needs to bring in younger members to make the club survive. Even though we are active we also need “new blood” to continue what have been accomplished over the last 40 years. When I joined BVARC nearly 25 years ago, the club had 297 members. Seventeen years ago when I stepped up to be president for first time, there were only 85 members. Since then the club has grown to just over 200 members in 2015. However in the last year we have started declining in membership. Membership is what keeps the club going by adding people with new thoughts, ideas and the most important thing a club needs - energy.

The club needs members to help with all the functions that the club has. From the annual Banquet to Field Day, from the Greater Houston Hamfest to Museum Ships Weekend, we need your help. So now **the club needs your help to survive.** Reach out to your neighbors, schools, churches and see who might be interested in becoming a ham. You might be surprised who would be interested in joining the hobby.

Since I missed getting a Prez Says article out in the December’s newsletter, I want to mention the changes in the BVARC board. The November elections brought several changes. A few members also changed from one position on the board to another. I want to thank Mark Janzer, K5MGJ for stepping up to be Vice President; Donovan Bali, KD5BDZ for continuing as Treasurer; Scott Medbury, KD5FBA for 2 year Director and JP Pritchard, KG5MBG for 1 year Director. I also want to thank Jon Noxon, KF5TFJ for stepping in to take over the Recording Secretary’s position.

I also want to thank Jerry Mueller, K9GEM for all the longs drives he made to make the BOD meetings as well as being my sounding board. I also want to thank Michael Monsour, ACOTX for all his hard work over the last couple of years as the club’s recording secretary and I hope the glass did not hurt your hand too much. I also want to thank Steve Friedman, KF5YYZ for his time as Corresponding Secretary. The Corresponding Secretary’s position is open now and it will be filled in the coming months in 2017. I want to thank Rick Hiller, W5RH for his time and hard work coordinating the elections.

This year Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> will be a lucky day. The BVARC banquet will be held that day starting at 6 pm. Ron Litt, K5HM has organized the banquet at Magginos Little Italy again this year. We will be in a larger room this year at the restaurant so don’t forget to purchase your tickets ASAP at <http://www.bvarc.org/index1.php?page=banquet> . All tickets purchases must be in by January 5<sup>th</sup> so we can have a good head count. Check the web site and newsletter for more information.

And the clock is ticking on the Greater Houston Hamfest. With less than 3 months to go to the March 24 & 25 dates, the work for the Hamfest is really gearing up. There are still a ton of things that need to be done to make the Hamfest successful so if you are interested in helping out, contact either Rick Hiller, W5RH; Ron Litt, K5HM or myself if you would like to help with the Hamfest. There are still a few Hamfest meetings left so check your e-mail.

Various club functions are coming up and it’s time to get ready for them. Mark Janzer, K5MGJ will be organizing a work party for the USS Stewart to get it “ship shape” for Museum Ships Weekend in June. And as most of you know, MSWE means it is time to get ready for Field Day. If you would like to help coordinate Field day, contact the BOD and let them know.

The club has done so much over the 40 years that it is becoming difficult on what to do next. A few ideas I have for the future are:

1. With the club membership dipping below 200, it is time for a membership drive. It would help the club in many ways and now is the time to start. I think I see a new member night in the near future.
2. With the weather as nice as it is, the BVARC picnic needs to be started again. What more can you say to that!
3. Several years ago, the club actually had a couple of road trips for the general meetings. I think it is time again to get on the road again (can someone call NASA so we can meet at Mission control for a meeting).

That just a few ideas that should be looked at for the coming year and I hope everyone had a Great New Year!  
Hope to see everyone at the banquet.

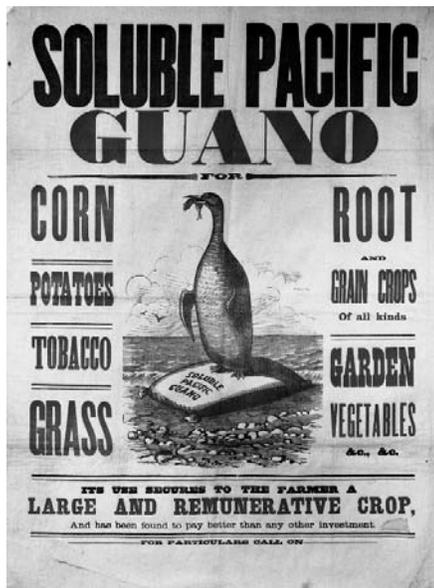
73,  
N5VCX



## What the Guano??

### What do these islands have in common?

Most Wanted DX	Name	Prefix	IOTA#
#4	Baker & Howland Island	KH1	OC-089
#8	Johnston Is	KH3	OC-023
#20	Midway	KH4	OC-030
#23	Kingman Reef & Palmyra Atoll	KH5	OC-085
#23	Jarvis Island	KH5	OC-081
#42	Wake Island	KH9	OC-053
#45	Navassa	KP1	NA-098
#51	Swains Island	KH8/S	OC-200
#252	French Frigate Shoals	KH6	OC-055



HINT: Even though they are all islands and most have low numbers on the Most Wanted DX list that is not the link. The thing they all have in common is guano; particularly bird poop. Yes, without our national desire for bird guano some of the world's premier DX locales might never have showed up on the radio spectrum.

In the mid-nineteenth century before the advent of chemical fertilizers, American farmers discovered that bird guano was a superior fertilizer compared to commonly used manure. The trade in guano became the foundation of modern farming and inspired the colonization of remote bird islands in many parts of the world. When the word spread about the power of guano, Americans became eager for it, despite high prices.

President Millard Fillmore addressed the matter of guano, stating that it was "the duty of the Government to employ all means properly

in its power for the purpose of causing that article to be imported into the country at a reasonable price."

**The Celebrated**  
— B I D —  
**Sea Fowl**  
**GUANO,**

stands unrivalled in price and quality.  
Its original standard is guaranteed and  
**Prices Reduced.**  
It has proved to be THE FERTILIZER  
for Corn and Cotton and in comparison to  
price is undoubtedly the  
**CHEAPEST USED.—TRY IT.**  
Enquire of any one who has used it—you  
will get a satisfactory answer.  
Testimonials furnished on applica-  
tion.  
Then send orders and applications forth  
with to  
R. W. ASKEW, Agent,  
Windsor, N. C.  
Feb'y. 26-6w

In 1856, the U.S. government passed a dubious piece of legislation called the Guano Islands Act. It allowed any unclaimed or unoccupied islands containing guano to be annexed. The U.S. Navy was directed to back up this claim. Companies could use this protection to explore and claim other islands.

The act was originally intended for Americans to acquire their own guano rich islands and was one of the founding acts of American imperialism. Guano islands were found in the Caribbean, such as Navassa Island, and some in the Pacific, including Baker and Jarvis islands.

During the latter part of the nineteenth century, the guano trade flourished. At one time there were more than 60 islands claimed under

the act. The Pacific Guano Company was one of the largest who mined guano from the central pacific islands. During this time, the company flourished. At the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, the company had its own Pavilion that sang the praises of their products.

By the 1880's the trade in guano declined as cheaper chemical fertilizers came to market. However, guano is still in demand by organic farmers.

Today, only eight islands remain administered as the US Minor Islands and one each annexed by American Samoa and Hawaii remain as possessions of the United States (see list above). However, there is still plenty of guano around, on 75 meters.

Reporting from the Dark Side  
Ron Litt, K5HM



### **Minutes of the December 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 9:16AM on December 3rd, 2016, at Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston 77074. Attending were: Mike Hardwick N5VCX (President.) Jon Noxon KF5TFJ (Vice President) Donovan Balli KD5BDZ (Treas.) Michael Monsour ACØTX (Rec.Sec./Quart.) Scott Medbury KD5FBA (2yr At-Large Dir) Jerry Muller K9GEM (1yr At-Large Dir.) Jo L Keener KE7NSB (2yr At-Large Dir) Eddie Runner NU5K Webmaster Cameron Mitchell K5CAM Ron Litt K5HM (Radio Sport) Pete Sauermilch KD5QPX Richard Pritchard KG3JPP

#### Reports:

- 1.1 A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes except with regards to the mailing of the Newsletter cancellation; this issue is being placed on hold.
- 1.2 A motion was made and passed to accept the Treasurer's report.

#### Old Business:

- 2.1 Steven wrote up some Letters of Appreciation regarding Field Day.
- 2.2 December, Home Brew Night with an auction that will feature many Tektronix oscilloscopes.
- 2.3 January Banquet, everything is set.
- 2.4 February meeting, might feature radiolocation.
- 2.5 March meeting might feature a HT programming class.
- 2.6 April meeting might feature a CW class.
- 2.7 May Meeting is preparation for Museum Ships and Field Day.
- 2.8 Masonic Lodge contract has been mailed.
- 2.9 Museum Ships will have a workday on Saturday, January 14, 2017 that might also occur on January 15.
- 2.10 Echo and TDXS wish to join BVARC in a combined Field Day.

#### New Business:

- 3.1 Steven Friedman has resigned from the Board as Corresponding Secretary.
- 3.2 The Bylaws will be checked as to combining Corresponding Secretary with another position. This will be tabled till next month.
- 3.3 The cost of the newsletter each year is approximately \$2000 per year, including all costs.
- 3.4 There is discussion in having an opt out to receive the Newsletter and whether or not to do anything with the savings from not mailing the Newsletter.
- 3.5 A motion was made and passed to assign Jon Noxon as Recording Secretary effective January 1 ,2017.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 AM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Michael Monsour ACØTX

## 2017 BVARC Annual Banquet

Ron Litt, K5HM

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Get ready for an evening of fun, frivolity fellowship and great food. So don't be shy.

Cocktails and drinks will begin at 6 PM in the Trentino Room on the second floor of the restaurant. An elevator is available. There will be a cash bar.

Banquet tickets are \$30 per person. Advance reservations only. Sorry; we have to provide the restaurant with a firm headcount in advance. **All payments must be received no later than January 5<sup>th</sup>**. Checks or payments received after that date will be returned.

You may purchase your tickets by PayPal or credit card on the BVARC Website (www.bvarg.org) <http://www.bvarc.org> or by check payable to BVARC. Mail checks to:  
Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 2997  
Sugar Land, Texas 77487-2997

A three course meal with an Italian flair will be served. Guests will have a choice of appetizers and entrees. All courses are served family style.

Appetizers:

Mozzarella Marinara

Calamari Fritte

First course:

Choice of

Caesar Salad or Italian Tossed Salad

Second Course:

Mom's Meat Lasagna with Marinara Sauce

Fettuccini Alfredo

Salmon, Lemon and Herb Sauce

Chicken Picatta

Italian Style Vegetables

Third Course

Fresh Fruit Plate

Chocolate Zuccotto Cake

Served with fresh Ciabatta Rolls, Coffee, Iced Tea and Soft Drinks

Cash Bar for adult beverages.

The balance of the program, including speaker will be announced as we get closer to the banquet date.

You can email me if you have questions. Get your reservation in early. Don't miss it.

## BVARC Rag Chew Net

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

11/30/16, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, KE5SR, KG3JPP, W5TOM, W5HFF, AA5OA.  
(7 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 77, SN = 0, A = 18, K = 3

12/07/16, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, W5TOM, K5LJ, W5HFF, W5VOM, AA5OA, KG3JPP, AF5T, KF5PHA,  
AF5XL, KC5JAT (Katy). (12 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 77, SN = 0, A = 18, K = 3

12/14/16, K5LKJ (NCS), KE5SR, W5TKZ, W5HFF, W5RH, KG3JPP, K5LJ, W5VOM, AA5OA, KF5PHA,  
KJ5Y. (11 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 72, SN = 14, A = 4, K = 1

12/16/16, K5LKJ (NCS), AA5OA, KJ5Y (Pearland), KG3JPP, W5HFF, W5TKZ, WA5RAC, WW5PA/5  
(M)(Uvalde), KA5LMZ (Morgan City, LA), WIBG (Katy), W5RH, AF5XL. (12 Check-Ins)  
Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 81, SN = 29, A = 5, K = 2

12/21/16, K5LKJ (NCS), W5VOM, W5TOM, KG3JPP, W5TKZ, W5RH, W5HFF, N5EKW (Katy), AF5XL,  
AA0ST (Dickinson), W5KGZ (Beaumont), K5IZO/5 (near Jasper). (12 Check-Ins)  
Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 75, SN = 25, A = 28, K = 4

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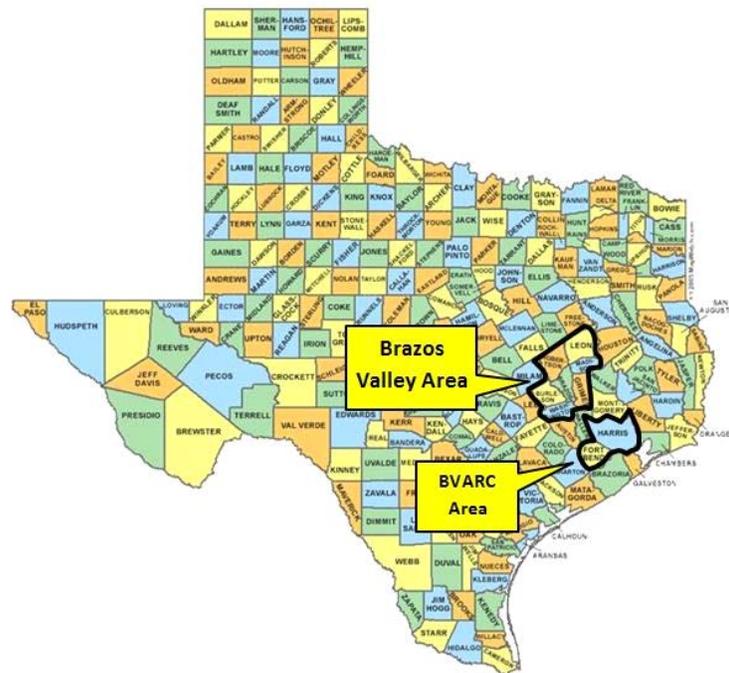
Come join in the conversation each Wednesday evening. Regards. John K5LKJ

## BVARC Historical Vignettes – BVARC’s Name Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

I have been a member of BVARC for 31 years and I have never heard how our club’s founders chose Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club as our club’s name. Our club’s members mostly reside in the Fort Bend–Harris County Area. Very few, if any, businesses, churches, schools, etcetera in our area have Brazos Valley in their name. The Brazos River in our area flows across the Gulf Coastal Plain and is not in a valley.

According to Wikipedia there is an area northwest of Houston that is called the Brazos Valley Region. The Brazos Valley region consists of the Bryan–College Station Metropolitan Area of Brazos, Burleson and Robertson counties along with the neighboring counties of Grimes, Leon, Madison and Washington.

Perhaps one day we will learn how our club was named.



Texas County Map

(<http://www.digital-topo-maps.com/county-map/texas.shtml>)



# The Radio Hotel- Diversity—A Deployable Advantage

By Rick Hiller -- W5RH

Getting the most contacts out of your Ham radio station is, typically, the main “fun” reason we got into this hobby in the first place. Our stations start out simple and then we build them up until they are a complex meld of technology, innovative ideas and sweat (especially here in Houston). Some improvements to the station are expensive, some are quite time consuming and others might be both. We really enjoy those improvements that are simple and that give us options. In the area of HF propagation, we are given many opportunities to exercise our options.

Some HF signals reflected by the ionosphere come in at a high angle, some (DX mostly) come in at a low angle, some with horizontal polarization, some with vertical polarization and some with ever-changing polarization, which leads to selective fading. We need to be able to receive them all for a better chance to improve our QSO rate/count. So, what is best to cope with these varying challenges? **Diversity**. Essentially, diversity means being ready for anything. High, low, vertical or horizontal. But how?

There are different types of diversity used – space, time, frequency, polarization, etc. Early commercial HF stations (RCA at Riverhead, NY, for example) used a multiple “Wave” antenna system designed by Drs. Beverage and Hansel. All antennas ran parallel, but they were separated by some distance. Each antenna was connected to a separate, custom receiver and the receiver outputs were combined to form a cohesive, coherent final audio output to the receiving operator.

Most Hams don’t have the space for even one “Wave” antenna, let alone a half dozen, so Hams fall back to polarization diversity or even short space diversity. Listening on an 80 meter horizontal loop, for example, and also being able to switch to a vertical of some sort is one option. Or, receiving on a 40 meter vertical and being able to switch to a 20 meter dipole during fading periods. Yes, the 20 meter antenna is very reactive on 40 meters, and the signal strength (and noise) will be lower in amplitude but by doing so it could improve the signal to noise ratio (s/n) on a very noisy 40 meter band and that’s just what it might take to receive the intelligence. That “pre-amp” button on your xcvr could bring those signals back up to normal listening level, but the s/n remains at the same ratio, so reception is maintained.

Ron, K5HM, gave me the low down on the Elecraft K3 and its’ built in capability to take advantage of its’ 2 independent receivers, each running on a different antenna and the two processed receiver outputs being delivered to the stereo-type headset being either 1) kept separate left and right or 2) combined into a mono left plus right. So the operator has multiple combinations of antennas, receivers, audio chains, etc. to get the best reception out of the system. This could also be accomplished by using 2 separate transceivers with audio mixed into a stereo headset – left and right channels.

I have always touted the benefits of 2 antennas, with each covering the same bands or overlapping on as many bands as possible. Being able to switch back and forth is an advantage. Maybe the signals are not stronger, but as stated above, the noise may be reduced substantially and the S/N ratio is improved. Some options for that second antenna are a TTFD (or other aperiodic array), a multiband vertical or a doublet with tuned feeders, etc. On receive the impedance match of the antenna system to the receiver is not as critical as it is on the transmitting side of things, so just throwing the switch to receive on another antenna might just do the trick.

Diversity might not work 100% of the time, but if it helps you make a few more contacts then it is well worth the effort; especially if it simply entails using an alternate antenna for receive. Look at [QST July 1994 - page 81](#) or [Ham Radio Magazine November 1979](#) for an in depth article on the subject.

Enjoy your hobby. GL ES 73 DE W5RH

**Next time.... Inside those Tri-band, Yagi-Uda Traps**

*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.*

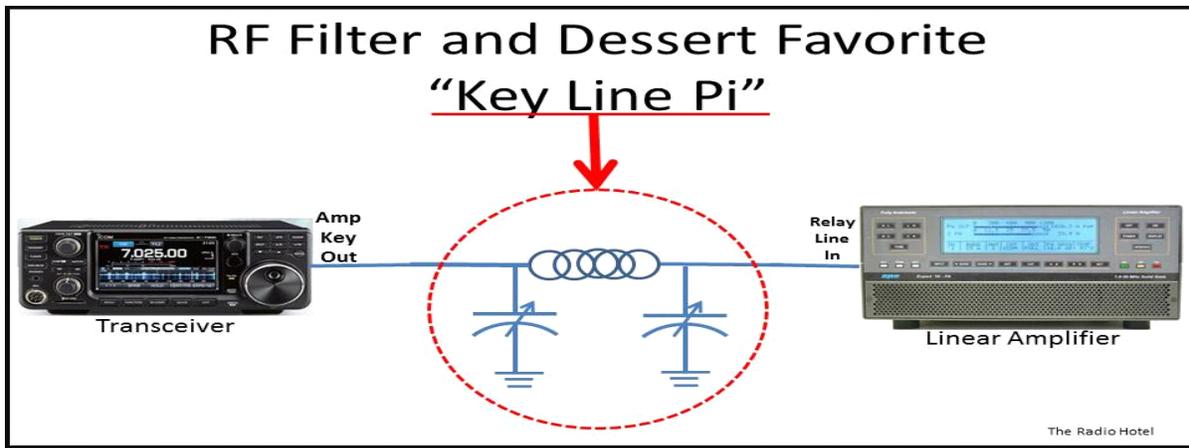


# Erratum

## The Radio Hotel – December 2016 – The Skinny on Wire

In TRH column - December 2016, I made the statement: "For conductivity, gold is best, then silver, but then the antennas cost many more times that of the whole ham shack." This statement is in error. Gold is not the best metal for conductivity. Bob Stroupe, WB5JWN, pointed this out to me at the BVARC breakfast this past week. A bit of research led me to my 1949 edition of the Handbook of Chemistry and Physics. It had the following list of the actual ratings of "Properties of Metals as Conductors".

The numbers are in micro-ohms per cm: Silver – 1.59, Copper – 1.72, Gold – 2.44, Aluminum – 2.82, Brass – 7, Iron 10 and Steel – 10.4. All are referenced at 20 degrees C. So, Silver is best, then Copper, then Gold. Regardless, Gold would be far too expensive to use for antenna wire, even Gold plating would not best Copper, if the Copper wire was insulated, as the main article suggests. I stand corrected on my misleading statement. Thank you, Bob. Rick, W5RH, The Radio Hotel



## 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:

9/19 - 25 - Ron, k5hm	10/24 -19 - Terry, k5pgf	11/28 - 23 - Clint, kf5hdf
9/26 - 14 - Clint, kf5hdf	10/31 - 19 - Jo, ke7nsb	12/5 - 13 - Ron, k5hm
10/3 - 19 - Dave, n5ekw	11/7 - 19 - Dave, k5ekw	12/12 - 15 - Steve, kf5yyz
10/10 - 16 - Steve, kf5yyz	11/14 - 15 - Steve, kf5yyz	12/19 - 14 - Jo, ke7nsb
10/17 - 17 - Ron, k5hm	11/21 - 15 - Jo, ke7nsb	12/26 - 14 - Clint, kf5hdf

### BVARC QUICK STATS

Date	Members	Newsletters	Life Members
12/26/16	184	187	66

**Results of the December 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, December 13, 2016 at HCC Southwest College Stafford Campus - Scarcella Building located at 10141 Cash Road at Greenland Dr., Stafford, TX 77477.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Richard Goldy, K5GOL  
Larry Jacobson, K5LJ  
John Moore, KK5NU  
George Ontko, KM5VP  
Randy Pugh, AA5OA

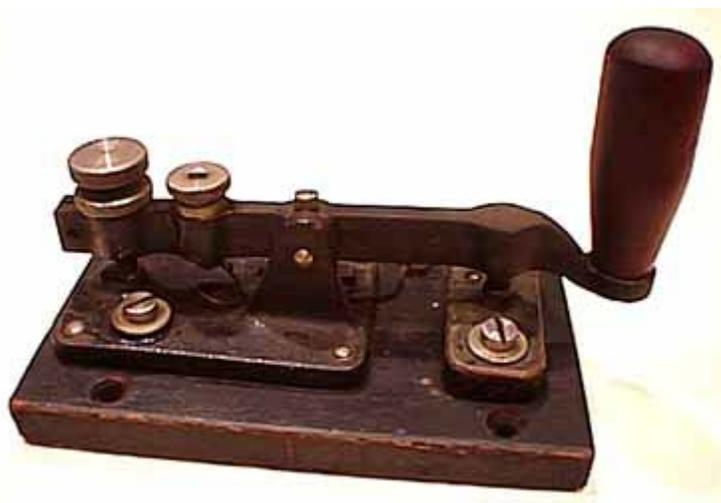
Four examination elements were administered during the evening to two applicants. One new Technician class license and one new Amateur Extra class license was attained, with the total number of elements passed being 4. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

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

William J. Boling - {KG5RBY} - Technician  
John A. Savelli - {AG5IH} - Amateur Extra

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 Southwest College Stafford Campus - Scarcella Building for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

... 73 ...



## 2017 Officers:

President

Michael Hardwick, N5VCX

[n5vcx@att.net](mailto:n5vcx@att.net)

Vice President

Mark Janzer K5MGJ

[k5mgj@yahoo.com](mailto:k5mgj@yahoo.com)

Recording Secretary

Jon Noxon KF5TFJ

[jon@noxon.cc](mailto:jon@noxon.cc)

Corresponding Secretary

Open

Treasurer

Donovan Balli, KG5BDZ

[dballi@mail.com](mailto:dballi@mail.com)

2 Year At-Large Board

Jo Keener – KE7NSB

[jo.l.keener@juno.com](mailto:jo.l.keener@juno.com)

2 Year At-Large Board Member B:

Scott Medbury KD5FBA

[smedbury@windstream.net](mailto:smedbury@windstream.net)

1 Year At Large

JP (Richard) Pritchard KG5MBG

[jppnews@comcast.net](mailto:jppnews@comcast.net)

### Regularly Scheduled 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, 10:00 AM (For Sept., check website)

Bayland Park Community Center

Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet,

#### Volunteer Examiner Program

BVARC administers Amateur License Exams on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the HCC Scarcella Technology Campus, 10141

Cash Rd. in Stafford. Contact John Moore, KK5NU [jwm@hal-pc.org](mailto:jwm@hal-pc.org)

#### 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.

### 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>

### **01/14/2017 | San Antonio Radio Fiesta**

**Location:** Schertz, TX

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** San Antonio Radio Club

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

### **02/25/2017 | Orange Hamfest 2017**

**Location:** Orange, TX

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Orange ARC and Jefferson Co. ARC

**Website:** [http://www.qsl.net/w5nd/index\\_files/HAMFEST%20NFO/hamfest%20info.htm](http://www.qsl.net/w5nd/index_files/HAMFEST%20NFO/hamfest%20info.htm)

### **03/11/2017 | HamEXPO**

**Location:** Belton, TX

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Temple Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://www.TARC.org/hamexpo/>

# 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](mailto:n5vcx@att.net)

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**BRAZOS VALLEY  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

**P.O. BOX 2997**

**SUGAR LAND, TX 77487-2997**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

**BVARC General Membership Meeting – No regular meeting – Attend the Annual Banquet  
BVARC Annual Awards Banquet – Friday, January 13.**



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