



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

APRIL 2017

VOLUME 41 ISSUE 4

## BVARC APRIL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, April 13, 2016 7:30pm, 421 Eldridge

We'll have a communications and command vehicle from the Harris County Sheriff's office parked on the back lot of the church, across Rolling Mill Dr. as a feature of the meeting. Alaina Robinson, of the Sheriff's office, will be present to set-up the trailer and describe some of the functions. They may not let us work the sirens and the flashing lights, but we'll get to inspect and learn about this highly specialized radio shack.



## Report on the March General Membership Meeting

The meeting was a bit more informal than our regular meetings. Pete Sauermilch -KD5QPX summarized what the happenings were to be at the (then) upcoming Greater Houston Hamfest. We also solicited volunteers for help during the hamfest. There was a fairly reasoned discussion on the faults of HR555, currently in committee in the US Senate. And finally, despite his numerous protestations, Nizar Mullani – K0NM, won the monthly raffle door prize (more than once). Congrats Nizar!



## The Prez Says

The magic day has finally come and gone. The 2017 Greater Houston Hamfest is over and it was very successful. Even with slightly lower turnout than last year, the event was really phenomenal. The hard work that was done over the last few weeks by the Hamfest committee turned into two days of fun, learning and mixing and matching all sorts of equipment. From kit building on Friday to golf carts picking up people in the parking lot to TWO balloon launches to the grand prize winners of the raffle on Saturday, the Greater Houston Hamfest put smiles on lots of people's faces. It was a great time from everyone.

This was our record year on VIP's. Beside our regular ones that are here each year such as the ARRL West Gulf Director Dr David Woolweaver, K5RAV, and the ARRL West Gulf Division Vice Director John Stratton, N5AUS, we also had Bob Inderbitzen, N1QR, ARRL Marketing Manager and Tim Duffy, K3LR, of DX Engineering. A familiar face, Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB, of CQ magazine, came back to help with kit building on Friday as well as presenting on Saturday. We also had Professor Edgar Sanchez of A & M University who spoke on "Internet of Things" and Dr. Robert Feldtman, W5RF, speaking about dxpeditations. Last but not least Icom America made an appearance this year with their equipment display which was manned by Will Jourdian, AA4WJ. I want to personally thank these people for coming to the Greater Houston Hamfest and making it one of the best Hamfest around.

This year, the hamfest went up a few notches on prizes with an Elecraft K3S as the grand prize and an Icom IC-7300 as the second prize. The winner of the K3S was Jeff Zawadzki of Sugar Land. Jeff is an interesting winner – he is just starting into ham radio and is not licensed yet! When I told Jeff that he was a winner in the raffle, he said that he hoped he had won the Icom IC-7300. When I told him he had not won the Icom, he sounded disappointed. When I told him that he had won the K3S, he asked me if that was a good radio or not! He said he guessed it was a pretty good deal for a \$10 ticket.

### Jeff Zawadzki with the GRAND PRIZE, Elecraft K3S



The winner of the 7300 was Freddy Stout, KM4SUA of Bristol, Virginia. Freddy is a truck driver who started his amateur radio “career” by taking the license test at the Greater Houston Hamfest last year. Freddy said he already had a 7300 and will be setting the second one up in his truck. He declined on donating it to the N5VCX radio fund!

### Freddy Stout, KM5SUA with a new Icom IC-7300



The Hamfest committee did a wonderful job this year putting the event together. From coordination of the speakers to traffic control to the table sales, they committee did a wonderful job. The committee members are:

**Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX**

**Rick Hiller, W5RH**

**Donovan Bali, KG5BDZ**

**Ron Litt, K5HM**

**Eddie Runner, NU5K**

Their hard work is what made the Greater Houston Hamfest a success this year. I want to personally thank Pete Sauermilch for jumping in and making the hamfest happen. Please say thanks to the members of the committee for their work on the hamfest. They all contributed time, effort and energy to the event.

I also want to thank John Chauvin, K5IZO, Jon Noxon, KF5TFJ and Nizar Mullani, N0NM, for their work on the hamfest. They both stepped up to the plate and help make the event even better. If you see any of the above people at the meeting, make sure you congratulate them on a job well done.

There were many other people that contributed to the hamfest. I could list them all but that would take up good deal of space. I just want to say thanks to the people that volunteered their time to help and make the event a wonderful success.

This month’s general meeting will be special one. We will have on display a mobile command vehicle from the Harris County Sheriff’s department. They will have information on how the vehicle is used for the department as well as the community when it is deployed. Make sure you come on out to see this unique vehicle. There is more information on the program elsewhere in the newsletter. Due to the size of the command vehicle, it will be set-up across Rolling Mill Drive in the back parking lot of the Sugar Land Methodist Church.

If you would like to help out on a public service event, the **BP MS150 is coming up April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>**. There are still plenty of positions open for radio operators along the course so if you are interested, please contact me or sign up at <http://bpms150hams.org/>. Come on out and put your radio and license to a great use!

**Museum Ships Weekend** is coming up on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Mark Janzer, N5MGJ will be coordinating this year and is working on getting everything ready for a great event. There will be a few work parties between now and June so come on down and help get the radio room working for MSWE. There is more information on the event elsewhere in the newsletter.

And don’t forget **ARRL Field Day June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>**. Plans are already underway for this year’s event and everything is in full swing. We will be at the Pecan Grove Volunteer Fire Station again this year so get ready for a great time. There will be planning meetings after the May and June Board of Directors meeting. If you would like to help, please come to the meetings or contact anyone on the board of directors.

## Where in the World is . . .

### Bouvet Island (3Y)

CQ 38 ITU 67

IOTA AN-002

An uninhabited sub Antarctic island in the South Atlantic, it is a dependency of Norway. It lies at the southern end of the South Atlantic, cold, isolated and SSW of the tip of South Africa. Seldom visited by man, it is the most remote island in the world and currently No.2 on the DXCC Most Wanted List.

Bouvet lies at 54 degrees South latitude. It's the product of a volcanic eruption that last occurred in 4,000 B.C. Bouvet is 97% ice covered, and with surrounding rocks and small islands, has an area of 19 square miles, with 18.4 miles of coastline. Its location, ice, rock cliffs, high seas, harsh climate and surrounding pack ice and icebergs isolate it from human presence. Jean-Baptiste Charles Bouvet de Lozier was the first to sight the island in 1739. The first documented landing was by the Norvegia expedition in 1927, which named the island Bouvetoya, and claimed it for Norway.



Bouvet became a Nature Reserve in 1971. The harsh climate and ice-bound terrain limits vegetation to fungi and moss in the snow free areas. Several weather stations have been placed on the island, and several Norwegian expeditions have visited the island in the last 50 years. The island has hosted several previous DXpeditions, the most recent in 2008. A new DX-pedition is planned for early 2018. Listen for 3Y0Z on the bands.

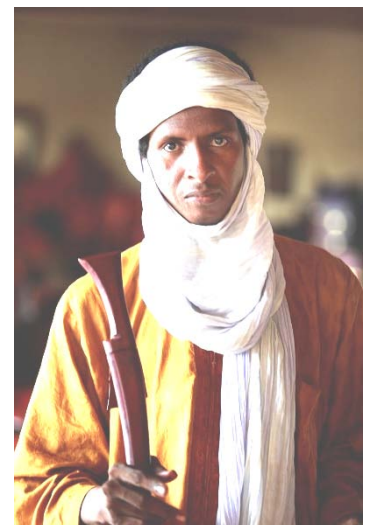
### Burkina Faso (XT)

CQ 35 ITU 46



Burkina Faso is a landlocked country in Africa around 105, 000 square miles in size. It is surrounded by six countries: Mali to the north; Niger to the east; Benin to the southeast; Togo and Ghana to the south; and Ivory Coast to the southwest. Formerly called the Republic of Upper Volta, the country was renamed "Burkina Faso" in 1984. Burkina Faso, which means "land of

honest men", has significant reserves of gold, but the country has faced domestic and external concern over the state of its economy and human rights. Its capital is Ouagadougou After several tries to pronounce the name, I gave up. Before the conquest of what is now Burkina Faso by the French and other colonial powers during the late 19th century the country was ruled by various ethnic groups. After gaining independence from France in 1960, the country underwent many



governmental changes. In 2009 the U.S. reported that slavery in Burkina Faso continued to exist and that children were often the victims. Slavery is an entrenched institution with a long history that dates to the Arab slave trade.

Burkina Faso has a primarily tropical climate with two very distinct seasons. In the rainy season, the country receives between 23 and 35 in of rainfall. In the dry season, a hot dry wind from the Sahara – blows. The rainy season lasts approximately four months. Largely sub-Saharan, a tourist hot spot it is not.

The nation is No. 152 on the DXCC Most Wanted list.

Reporting from the Dark Side  
Ron, K5HM



## 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:

12/19 - 14 - Jo, ke7nsb	1/23/17 - 23 - Clint, kf5ndf	2/27 - 32 - Clint, kf5ndf
12/26 - 14 - Clint, kf5hdf	1/30/17 - 18 - Terry, k5pgf	3/6 - 22 - Dave, k5ekw
1/2/17 - 16 - Jimmy, w5ztx	2/6/17 - 18 - Julie, kf5flz	3/13 - 9 - Steve, kf5yyz
1/9/17 - 21 - Steve, kf5yyz	2/13/17 - 13 - Jo, ke7nsb	3/20 - 17 - Jo, ke7nsb
1/16/17 - 16 - Jo, ke7nsb	2/20/17 - 13 - Dave, k5ekw	3/27 - 21 - Clint, kf5ndf

### BVARC QUICK STATS

Date	Members	Newsletters	Life Members
3/27/17	172	181	67



# The Radio Hotel- AA0ST and Antennas 'Thru the Looking Glass'

by W5RH

So, the ever industrious and inquisitive Jeff, AA(zero)ST, sends me a link from [physics.org](http://physics.org) and suggests that I check out this rabbit hole – an article “**Chu’s Limit is No More**”. So I do. Suddenly, I find myself falling head over heels, deeper and deeper into the strange, underground caverns of modern antenna research. White Rabbit and Mad Hatter things I had never seen before, names I had never heard – Chu, Harrington, Foster, Wheeler, NIC--Negative Impedance Converters, “negative” capacitors and “negative” inductors – aka “**non-Foster**” Elements, DDIT -- Dynamic Dissipative Impedance Transformers to name a few. Totally unfamiliar territory, but with Google as my research friend, I was reading applicable material within minutes. I found items in the Google search that seemed to outline and explain it all. Understanding it, however partial, came after quite a few hours of reading (over and over).

The article claims that a Jabberwocky Scientist at the Navy Research Lab just broke thru “Chu’s Limit” on small antennas. *Who’s what???* In a nut shell, all antennas, but especially small antennas (less than  $1/10^{\text{th}}$  wavelength long), have a limited useable application bandwidth (Chu’s Limit). Along with that have physical properties, as we hams know them, of a greatly reduced and highly reactive Radiation Resistance  $R_r$  of 1 or 2 ohms, thus lowering the efficiency quite dramatically. Matching is possible, but very, very lossy with the familiar passive, or “Foster” capacitors and inductors. (**Google: Foster’s Reactance Theorem – 1924**) Getting the transmitter power into the smaller antenna structure is a big matching challenge, to say the least. Well...not anymore, it seems.

These cats are working on cell phone and other application related antennas in the 400+ MHz regions. They need small antennas so that they will fit inside a cell phone case and they need wide, wide bandwidth so that they can send and receive multi-Megabits of information over the RF channel(s). To do that takes usable bandwidth (**Google: Shannon’s Channel Capacity**). The key: applying low loss, “**non-Foster**” components to counteract the large feed point reactance and to enable efficient, low loss L networks to match the transmitter or transmission line  $Z$  to the small antenna’s very low Radiation Resistance.

What are “**non-Foster**” elements? They are NIC’s – Negative Impedance Converters, invented by Bell Labs in the 40’s. Negative capacitors and inductors, each made out of active op-amps (or equivalent transistor circuitry) and passive Foster components. The result of which is an active circuit that gives a reactance versus frequency curve that is the inverse of the Foster (passive) C or L’s. Plus, these active, negative capacitors and inductors can perform this inverse function with very little R loss. Great! The catch (other than operating at very low voltages) is that these active, non-Foster elements give a typical range of +/- 30n Henrys and the equivalent Farad delta. These nano-values are big numbers in the upper MHz regions, but in our Ham HF region they are but solder slag on the coils in our ATU’s. Now, there are folks wanting to take this applied technology and bring it down to frequency regions that we Hams (and the military) are more familiar with.

If they do succeed in applying this NIC technology at lower frequencies, how will it help us HF/VHF/UHF Hams? Other than being quite interesting to read about, I’m not sure it would even matter. We don’t send hundreds or even tens of Megabits on Ham Radio. At 400 Mhz, for instance, their record breaking 18 MHz is 4.5% of the bandwidth. At 14 Mhz, 4.5% bandwidth is 600 KHz...we can easily do that at under 2:1 SWR. However, it is not only bandwidth. It is available cycles per second to which to apply the modulation. **Nyquist** comes into play. You gotta be up in the MHz’s to have the faculties of the spectrum to do their kind of work. **Professor Nezar Bedhar, U of WI – Madison (Youtube)**, is working to apply these tunable negative reactance methods to small VHF and even HF antennas to make them more broadband and efficient. I’ll agree with more efficient – either in matching circuits or the antennas themselves. But in our Ham Radio, DX type world, it is not just about getting power into the ether. It is about sending our signals in a particular direction at a particular angle to allow us to “work the world”. So, I am not sure that a low voltage, active circuit NIC is gonna help us. Well, not on high power transmit, anyway. But the subject gives us plenty of **new words** to Google. So, please, Google away and have some fun reading about the new “Through the Looking Glass” antennas.

Thanks, Jeff, for the adventure! Enjoy your hobby. GL ES 73 DE W5RH

## Next Time – Tools for the Antenna Information Junkie

*The purpose of **The Radio Hotel** is to give you a practical kick start 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.*



## The Hamfest Volunteer

Submitted by Rick Hiller, W5RH

They came by the hundreds. Hams that is. Old ones, new ones, soon to be ones. Techie ones, DX'er ones, contesting ones, VHF'ers and ARES'ers. All those Hams that make up the Amateur Radio community. They all came at once. They heard that there was a Hamfest -- a typical one day gathering of flocks of technically oriented, radio attracted Homo Sapiens. They came for the Hamfest.

The venue was a local county fairgrounds: buildings for flea markets and buildings for giving technical talks with plenty of free parking. All the good things about this venue made them come.

The weather was pleasant, a bit foggy, and cloudy, and misty early on, but being a typical Spring day, that all cleared and that made them come.

The Hams stood at the gate. A gate closed and locked by the fairground's groundskeeper in his golf cart maintenance vehicle. Their line of cars stretched across the parking lot, waiting. They stood in line at the ticket booth whose windows were marked "Next Window", on all windows. There were no tickets to be sold, but the Hams came anyway. With high hopes of winning the grand prize in the raffle they came. They came for all of the many door prizes, donated by commercial sponsors and announced during the festivities. For these prizes they came.

But today, there was not a Hamfest to be had, nothing to celebrate, nothing to win, nothing to listen to, nothing to buy nothing to trade, not even a story or two to swap. They all stood there waiting for something to happen, for someone to show up and unlock the gate, but nothing did and no one showed up. There was no Hamfest to be had that day. All the volunteers that are critical to the running of the Hamfest decided not to show up. They thought it not important, that their measly task of watching a gate or a door for security or helping set up or tear down would not matter if they did not show up. The whole group, individually, decided to not show up. The Hams showed up, the volunteers didn't. There was no Hamfest that day.

You see, for a Hamfest to take place it takes both – hams and volunteers. Hams can easily be had by the dozens. Volunteers are as rare as hens teeth -- difficult to find and when found are worth their weight in Hamfest gold. Without volunteers, a Hamfest is nothing but a closed and locked fairgrounds venue. Nothing more than a bunch of Hams standing at locked gates and closed ticket windows. So, please.....Volunteer and show up!!!

For those that did volunteer to help put on the 2017 Greater Houston Hamfest – THANK YOU, from the bottom of our Ham Radio hearts – THANK YOU. We did, indeed, have a Hamfest and a great one too. Number 16, mind you. The gates were truly unlocked and open thanks to you the Hamfest Volunteer. See you next year.



## **BVARC Historical Vignettes – BVARC Monthly Membership Meeting Locations**

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

Over the years BVARC's monthly membership meetings have been held at many locations. The club's organizational meeting was held at Westbury Methodist Church in Meyerland on September 16, 1977. Two weeks later BVARC was officially founded at a meeting in the Missouri City fire station. BVARC met in the upstairs room of the Missouri City fire station for 15 years. I was president of BVARC in 1991 when our club was told that we had to find another meeting place. Bud King, K5CEK, came forward as a Sugar Land resident and sponsored BVARC to meet in the Sugar Land Community Center. The BVARC membership meetings were held at the Sugar Land location for 19 years. In 2010 BVARC lost the Sugar Land meeting place.

The next five years were difficult but the club leadership worked hard to find other meeting places. From 2010 through 2015 the club met at the Eldridge Park Conference Center, the Imperial Park Conference Center, the Tracy Gee Community Center and even a short return to the Sugar Land Community Center.

In August 2015 BVARC began meeting at the Sugar Land Masonic Lodge. BVARC has been meeting at this location for 18 months and many club members feel like we have found a home again.

### **BVARC Monthly Membership Meeting Locations**

1977	Westbury Methodist Church
1977-1991	Missouri City Fire Station
1991-2010	Sugar Land Community Center
2010	Eldridge Park Conference Center
2011	Eldridge Park Conference Center
	Sugar Land Community Center
2012	Imperial Park Recreation Center
2013	Imperial Park Recreation Center
	Eldridge Park Conference Center
2014	Eldridge Park Conference Center
	Tracy Gee Community Center
2015	Eldridge Park Conference Center
	Sugar Land Masonic Lodge
2016-Present	Sugar Land Masonic Lodge



## Confession of an Oberstleutnant

by Pete Sauermilch

I am often asked, "What's it like to be the Oberstleutnant of the Greater Houston Hamfest?" (No really, it happens all the time; emails, grocery stores, post offices, shopping malls. It really does, honest.) The answer in a word is, not too bad, OK three words. Now there are ten simple steps I follow. As this is a tell all, here they are.

1. Get a front man. That happens to be Mike Hardwick, the Hamfest Chairman. I push him out in front so the incoming arrows hit him first. It helps if he is a little wider than me. Wham, done.
2. Let the front man think he is in control. What I do is bother him with many, many questions over little details about everything. The answers keep getting shorter and shorter. Then he stops answering the phone and returning calls. The emails don't get answered. Pretty soon you have a free hand. Neither he nor anyone else knows what I am doing and they start thinking they don't want to know. They ... become ... afraid, very ... afraid.
3. Have vendors disappear. This is harder to do because I need some luck. We had four big commercial vendors not make our little event. One went out of business, one was in the process of closing their doors, one had personnel issues, and one had health issues. The thing is, all these have reasons that can't come back at me. So, if or when I do come up with a vendor or two, I am golden. How great is that?
4. Have a cohort make a couple of cold calls. This is where I start naming names. Ron Litt, Chief of Program Development, was desperate for speakers. Now, when I say desperate, I heard from an anonymous source that he would wake in the middle of the night screaming with blood spurting from his eyes. You can check it out, Google it. It's got to be on the internet somewhere, the voice told me so. But anyway, there's an upside, he calls DX Engineering and gets Tim Duffy to come and make two presentations. Plus, a total surprise to us all, in a meeting and Tim Duffy mentions to iCom that they should come to our Hamfest. Next day iCom has purchased two tables and is asking how to ship their display to the fairgrounds. Bazinga! But wait, there's more; there's Bob Inderblitzen, David Woolweaver, John Stratton of the ARRL, Joe Eisenberg, of CQ Magazine, Bill Crowell, Hal Fuglaar Jr, Russell Biggs, Jason Johnston, Andy Mac Allister, Allen Mattis, Bill Pellerin, Jack Phillee, Pat Cameron, and Curt Fletcher. All made excellent presentations and/or workshops. While Litt pulled the people together, the list above is full of people who devoted a lot of time to make a quality contribution.
5. Have a club member with contacts. Nizar Mullani, Program Developer, somehow found Dr. Robert Feldman, Tonga DX Expedition Presenter, and Professor Edgar Sanchez-Sinencio DSc, Internet of Things Presenter. Now I ask you, just where do you go to find people like that or even think of people like that? It's a mystery to me but he did it. It's got to be his contact network, lucky me, lucky us. The list of heavy weight presenters just kept adding up!
6. Have a club member who has his own web server. Eddie Runner, owner of River Oaks Car Stereo, happens to do a lot of internet work and provides BVARC with its web page. He also hosts the Hamfest web page. So I was asking him how he was handling table sales and first thing I know I have administrator privilege and am modifying web pages. Now that's power. Someone grouses about something, I go in and change it and then ask them for details because I can't find the flaw they identified. Guess what, neither can they. Now what's with that? Bottom line, look at other Hamfest websites and look at ours. The others are pretty wimpy if I do say so myself, and I do.
7. Know someone who has done it all before. Now that would be John Chauvin. He said he was out of the business of Hamfest production but turns out he just can't help himself. Just act stupid and ask how to do something and he spills his guts and bingo, I have an action plan.
8. Have a few selfless BVARC volunteers. Then it comes down to club members who are willing to do the heavy lifting. I mean of course those who bought their own ticket, came in early, and did the thankless tasks. Well here is where I thank them. Specifically, in alphabetical order; Balli Donovan, Rick Brouard, Luke Bugler, Travis Burgess, Jim Burroughs, Jose Cantor, Bill Cordell, Gayle Dotts, Paul Easter, Dave Ely, Dennis Harper, Bob Hawkins, Rick Hiller, Mark Janzer, Jo L. Keener, Kirk Kendrick, Ross Lawler, Scott Medbury, Cameron Mitchell, Tom Morton, Jerry Muller, J.P. Pritchard, Jeff Riff, Sally Sauermilch, Bob Stroupe, and Jimmy Vance. There were a few more but because of circumstance were not on the volunteer list, so their names escape me.
9. Get the Wonder Women. Now I really can't claim that I had anything to do with this though wish I could. There are seven women who spent the best part of Saturday at the Hamfest. Six of them are not even BVARC members yet they did more for the Hamfest than 90% of the BVARC membership, go figure. They are; Bekah Boon, Priscilla Chauvin, Caroline Kendrick, Linda Litt, Anita Mattis, Kelly Medburry, and Alaina Robinson. Thank you ladies.
10. Remember the Work Order. Yeah, this one got past me. I had the work order for good weather all filled out but the dog ate it. I did try to get the TxDOT to finish I-69 construction by March 18<sup>th</sup> but that exceeded our budget. I did find the funding for the blue skies but the dog thing, so sue me.

There you have it. Ten easy steps, easy-peasey. 73





# TAVCO

Specialists in:  
**Wide-Format Color and Black & White Plotters**  
**Well Log Printers**  
**3D Desk-Top Printers**

**Canon**

**Océ**



bluebeam®  
No Limits®

**formlabs**

**Offering Sales, Supplies, Support and Service**

**Contact: Rick Hiller – W5RH    [rick@tavco.net](mailto:rick@tavco.net)    cell:713-591-4792**



## **BVARC Rag Chew Net**

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

02/22/17, K5LKJ (NCS), W5VOM, W5RH, W5TOM, W5HFF, K5LJ, KF5TFJ, W5TKZ, AA0ST (Dickinson), KG3JPP, N8NOV, AF5XL (Katy). (12 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 83, SN = 19, A = 4, K = 1

03/01/17, K5LKJ (NCS), W5HFF, W5TKZ, AA0ST (Dickinson), N8NOV, K5IZO, KG3JPP, W5VOM, K5LJ, WW5PA/5 (M)(Del Rio), KF5TFJ, W5RH. (12 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 81, SN = 39, A = 8, K = 4

03/08/17, K5LKJ (NCS), K5IZO, W5HFF, N5EKW (Katy), KG3JPP, W5TKZ, W5JZQ (Leesville, LA), KN5GRK (Lafayette, LA), W5VOM, W5TOM, K5LJ, WW5PA, KF5TFJ, KE5SR (Gainesville, FL), AF5XL (Katy), AA0ST (Dickinson), W5RH, AF5T, KG5QQI (Cypress), KC5JPG (Lafayette, LA), KD5CDM, WB4KTF. (22 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 71, SN = 0, A = 16, K = 2

03/15/17, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, KF5TFJ, W5HFF, K5IZO, K5LJ, N5EKW (Katy), KG3JPP, AA0ST (Dickinson), KF5PHA, W5RH, W1BG (Katy), W5VOM, AF5XL, WN5A. (12 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 69, SN = 0, A = 4, K = 1

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

Beat the Solar Minimum Blues by attending the BVARC Rag Chew Net.  
Come join in the conversation each Wednesday evening.

Regards.    John K5LKJ

## *Minutes of the March 4, 2017 Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club*

### Board Members Present:

Mike Hardwick N5VCX (President.)  
Mark Janzer K5MGJ (Vice President)  
Donovan Balli KG5BDZ (Treasurer)  
Jon Noxon KF5TFJ (Rec. & Cors. Secretary)  
Scott Medbury KD5FBA (2yr @ Lg Dir)  
Jo L Keener KE7NSB (2yr @ Lg Dir)  
JP Pritchard KG3JPP (1yr @ Lg Dir)

### Non-voting attendees:

Ron Litt K5HM (Radio Sport)  
Michael Monsour ACØTX (QM)  
Cam Mitchell K5CAM  
Jerry Muller K9GEM  
Pete Sauermilch KD5QPX  
Rick Hiller W5RH

A Quorum was established.

### Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: Club President Mike Hardwick called the regularly scheduled monthly Board of Directors meeting for the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 9:06:15 AM on March 4, 2017. The meeting was held at the Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston, Texas 77074.

2. Club President's Opening Statement: none

3. Emergency Business: none

4. Minutes from Previous BOD Meeting: A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes of the February 2017 meeting as published in the March 2017 Club Newsletter.

5. Treasurer's Report: A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Treasurer's report presented by Donovan Balli, Club Treasurer.

### 6 Old Business:

6a Hamfest: next organization meeting to be held March 4 following the Board of Directors Meeting.

6b Field Day: Scott Medbury, KD5FBA, has stepped up to be the 2017 Field Day Coordinator.

6c General Membership Meetings:

March 9, 2017 Ham Fest Information and report from Mark Janzer's meeting with Senator Ted Cruz regarding HR555

April 13, 2017 CW by Nizar Mullani K0NM

May 6 Museum Ships

6d The Masonic Lodge lease check was cashed; Mike will call them to regarding the promised extra key.

6e Report on "Testing for Scouts" by K5MGJ. A Thank You Note was received from the Scouts expressing appreciation for the Club's donation of a dual band radio.

6g Newsletter discussions are on-going.

### 7 New Business:

7a Meeting Agendas shall be approved for content at the beginning of a BOD Meeting.

7b Proposal put forward to redesign the Club logo.

7c HR555 and our ARRL relationship was discussed.

7d On April 8, three meetings scheduled - Museum Ships 9:00-9:30, BOD 9:30-10:30, and GHHF 10:30-12:00.

NOTE: Dates for 2017 Board of Directors Meetings have been set as follows:

April 8

July 8

October 7

May 6

August 5

November 4

June 3

September 9

December 9

Meetings are open to all, and Club Members are encouraged to attend and be engaged in Club governance.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 AM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Jon Noxon KF5TFJ

## 2017 Officers:

President (2016-2017)  
Michael Hardwick, N5VCX  
[n5vcx@att.net](mailto:n5vcx@att.net)

Vice President (2017-2018)  
Mark Janzer K5MGJ  
[k5mgj@yahoo.com](mailto:k5mgj@yahoo.com)

Recording Secretary (temp until Nov. 9, 2017)  
Jon Noxon KF5TFJ  
[jon@noxon.cc](mailto:jon@noxon.cc)

Corresponding Secretary (temp until Nov. 9, 2017)  
Jon Noxon KF5TFJ  
[jon@noxon.cc](mailto:jon@noxon.cc)

Treasurer (2017-2018)  
Donovan Balli, KG5BDZ  
[dballi@mail.com](mailto:dballi@mail.com)

2 Year At-Large Board Member A: (2016-2017)  
Jo Keener – KE7NSB  
[jo.l.keener@juno.com](mailto:jo.l.keener@juno.com)

2 Year At-Large Board Member B: (2017-2018)  
Scott Medbury KD5FBA  
[smedbury@windstream.net](mailto:smedbury@windstream.net)

1 Year At Large (2017)  
JP (Richard) Pritchard KG3JPP  
[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

The Saturday before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 9:00 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**

(typically within 200 miles of Houston)

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

### **05/19/2017 | Ohio State Convention (2017 Dayton Hamvention)**

**Location:** Xenia, OH

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Dayton Amateur Radio Association

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

### **06/09/2017 | West Gulf Division Convention (Ham-Com)**

**Location:** Irving, TX

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** DFW Metroplex Clubs

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

### **07/08/2017 | Texas City/Tidelands ARS Hamfest**

**Location:** Texas City, TX

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Tidelands Amateur Radio Society

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

# 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)

Newsletter Editor, John Chauvin, K5IZO, [k5izo@yahoo.com](mailto:k5izo@yahoo.com)

Newsletter Printing, Assembly and Mailing, Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, [k5cam@arrl.net](mailto:k5cam@arrl.net)

---

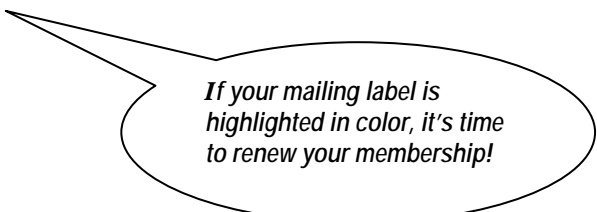
VOLUME 41, ISSUE 4

APRIL, 2017

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

**Board of Directors and Hamfest meetings – Saturday, April 8, 9:00 & 10:30.  
BVARC General Membership Meeting – Thursday, April 13**



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