



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

AUGUST 2017

VOLUME 41 ISSUE 8

## BVARC AUGUST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, August 10, 2017 7:30pm, 421 Eldridge

It's been a hot, humid and rainy summer, typical for Texas. It'll be time to cool off with some creamy frozen **Blue Bell** and desert snacks (brownies, cookies, etc.) at the August BVARC meeting. Come hungry! A welcome and longstanding BVARC tradition, the Ice Cream Social!

Also, the newsletter name will be announced along with the winner of the **\$100 DX Engineering gift certificate**. If you haven't to the notices to date to got your entry in, you have through July 31, 2017 to get it to the Editor.



### ***Report on the July General Membership Meeting***

At the July General Membership Meeting, we had a great turnout with 33 members and guests. We were all entertained by Nizar Mullani's (K0NM) tales of growing up in Tanzania, and the pictures he shared of his recent trip "back home". Somehow he managed to mention a bit about amateur radio and the German friend who accompanied him. At no time did he mention meeting Crosby, Hope or Lamour on the *Road to Zanzibar!*

Mike (TDX) shared pictures and results from the four club Field Day event. We'll have to wait for ARRL to publish the results to see how well we did. If you did not attend any of Field Day, mark your calendar for the last weekend in June, 2018. No excuses.



### **Newsletter Naming Contest**

***Last chance to submit your entry***

You only have 1 or 2 days remaining to submit your entry.



BVARC will award a \$100 **DX ENGINEERING** Gift Certificate to the winner.

Just submit your suggested newsletter name to the Editor (John Chauvin, K5IZO@Yahoo.com) before 23:59 CDT July 31.

The Newsletter regular contributors, Newsletter team and other interested members will select the name/winner. Selection committee members may enter names but are ineligible for the prize.

This winner will be announced at the August 10 General Membership meeting.

Think "out the box" and Good Luck!

## The Prez Says

The summer is at its hottest so everyone should know what that means – Ice Cream Social Time! Two years ago there was no Blue Bell but that is not the case this time. So get you're your spoons ready and bring your appetite! If you would like to help, please contact Scott Medbury, KD5FBA, and let him know that you are ready to sample the ice cream in a couple of weeks.

Another item is coming up on its two year anniversary - the Sugar Land Masonic lodge as the BVARC meeting location. Just to let everyone know, a new rental agreement is in the works for BVARC to have the space through June of 2018. Two years ago BVARC started using the Masonic lodge which meant we no longer have to compete for space or be turned away at the last minute. The Sugar Land Masonic Lodge has given BVARC a place to grow and start a new chapter for the club.

Last month's meeting was a treat with the Zanzibar version of "Route 66" from Nizar, N0NM. Nizar wowed everyone with his recent trip and the amateur radio adventures he experienced. I hope he will have more for us in the future. If anyone else has their version of a "Route 66" with amateur radio and would like to present it to the club, let someone on the Board know and we will schedule it. We all would like to have a little education on something new.

This year, Field Day was a great turn out. With the participation of four clubs – Brazos Valley ARC, TDXS ARC, ECHO Society ARC and the newest club KARS – Katy Amateur Radio Society we had a great turnout. We had over 80 people show up on Saturday and 40 on Sunday to help out and operate. Mike, N5MT, Scott, KD5FBA and Jeffery, KG5LRP did a great job coordinating Field day making it the second largest in the state. Mike, N5MT, put the scores together for the quad club event and it was a "great and beautiful" score. The final numbers that he came up with are:

KK5W 8A with K5DX GOTA station Total of 39 operators

Total points – 14, 058 (172 more points than the clubs 2016 score)

So I want to thanks everyone again for their hard work. Without it, Field Day would have not happened. I also want to say thanks to a few individuals and groups - Pecan Grove Volunteer Fire Department for the use of their station; Bill Cordell, W5VOM, for his generosity on suppling the man lifts and the tee-shirts; Dave Elsner, KD7THJ, for putting on a wonderful spread that made all of us a few pounds heavier and last but not least for everyone else that sweated their rear ends off during the event. Thanks again.

Right around the corner for BVARC are the November club elections. There will be several positions open and if you would like to help by volunteering your time to be on the board of directors please contact someone on the board and let them know. The positions that will be open are president, recording secretary, two year director, one year director. Please consider running for one of the positions to help the club. The club needs your help on running it so please step up and help the club.

Hope to see everyone at the Ice Cream Social!

73,  
Mike,  
N5VCX



## 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:

4/17 - 18 - Jo, ke7nsb	5/22 - 21 - Clint, kf5ndf	6/26 - 28 - Clint, kf5ndf
4/24 - 18 - Clint, kf5ndf	5/29 - 17 - Terry, k5pgf	7/3 - 18 - Dave, k5ekw
5/1 - 24 - Dave, k5ekw	6/5 - 25 - Dave, k5ekw	7/10 - 21 - Rick, W5RH
5/8 - 16 - Jo, ke7nsb	6/12 - 12 - Dave, k5ekw	7/17 - 7 - Jo, ke7nsb
5/15 - 10 - Jo, ke7nsb	6/19 - 16 - Jo, ke7nsb	7/24 - 16 - Dave, k5ekw

### BVARC QUICK STATS

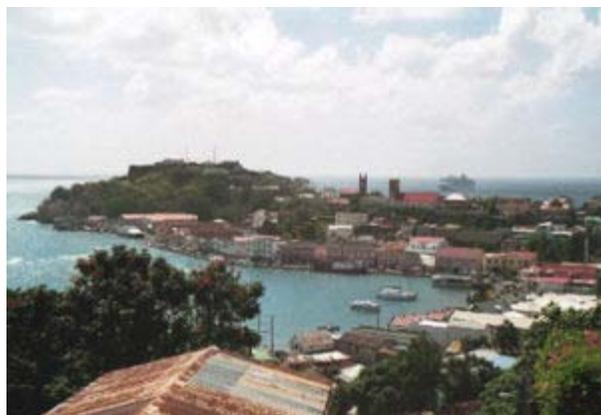
Date	Members	Newsletters	Life Members
7/25/17	195	184	67

**Where in the World is . . .**  
**Grenada (J3)**  
**CQ 8 ITU 11 IOTA NA-024**

Grenada is a Caribbean country comprising a main island, also called Grenada, and smaller surrounding islands. Dubbed the “Spice Isle,” the hilly main island is home to numerous nutmeg plantations. It’s also the site of the capital, St. George’s, whose colorful homes, Georgian buildings and early-18th-century Fort George overlook it’s narrow harbor.



Only 201<sup>st</sup> out of 339 on Club Log’s Most Wanted DXCC list, Grenada is still pursued by DX enthusiasts, especially those who chase the IOTA awards.



About 2 million years ago, Grenada was formed as an underwater volcano just 90 miles northeast of Venezuela,

Before the arrival of Europeans, Grenada was inhabited by indigenous tribes.

Christopher Columbus sighted Grenada in 1498 during his third voyage to the New World.



The French were the first to settle in 1649. They made war on the natives and eventually drove them to the hills or to nearby islands. The French established an economy initially based on [sugar cane](#) and [indigo](#). The capital was named [Fort Royal](#) (later St. George). To shelter from hurricanes, the French navy would often take refuge in the capital's natural harbor.

The British captured Grenada during the Seven Years' War in 1762. Known in America as the French and Indian War, it sowed the seeds of the American Revolution. The British held the island till the modern day, except for a brief period after the American Revolution.

Nutmeg was introduced to Grenada in 1843 when a merchant ship left a few nutmeg trees in Grenada. This was the beginning of Grenada's nutmeg industry that now supplies nearly 40% of the world's annual crop.



[Tourism](#) is Grenada's main economic force. The tourism industry is increasing dramatically with the construction of a large cruise ship pier. Up to four cruise ships per day were visiting St. Georges in 2007–2008 during the cruise ship season.

Grenada remained a British Crown Colony and later, a member of the British Commonwealth until 1974, when it achieved complete independence. In 1979, a leftist coup, suspended the constitution, and established the [People's Revolutionary Government](#) which had close ties with Cuba. Four years later, the U.S. invaded the island, deposing the PRG and establishing a government friendly to the U.S. The date of the invasion is now a national holiday in Grenada, called Thanksgiving Day.

The [climate](#) is tropical: hot and humid in the rainy season and cooled by the [trade winds](#) in the [dry season](#). Grenada, being on the southern edge of the [hurricane belt](#), has suffered only three hurricanes in fifty years.

**Reporting from the Dark Side,**  
**Ron, K5HM**

Next Month: A visit to the Outer Hebrides.

## BVARC Historical Vignettes – BVARC’s Newsletter

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

Our club was formed forty years ago in September 1977. Since that time there have been 18 BVARC newsletter editors. Each editor picked a name for the club newsletter. The most frequently used newsletter name was the B-VARC Bulletin. A future BVARC Historical Vignette will explain how the hyphen appeared in B-VARC. During the last 15 years the club newsletter was simply named the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club. The table below lists the 18 newsletter editors and the various names given to the club newsletter.

### BVARC Newsletter Names

Date	Newsletter Name	Editor
March 1978	Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club	Wade Eilers WASTEN
May 1979	Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Newsletter	Larry Levy WD5DRB
February 1980	Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club News	Alan Shapiro N5BSW
August 1980	The B-VARC Bulletin	Stu Lamkin WB5IGG
January 1986	B-VARC Bulletin	Joe Ross KA5GTU
May 1986	B-VARC Bulletin	Brenson Abbott KF5VZ
September 1987	BVARC Bulletin	Robert Ricketts N5JKD
April 1988	B-VARC Bulletin	Irv Smith KB5EXM
February 1990	B-VARC Bulletin	Roland Torres KB5EGH
August 1990	The B-VARC Bulletin	Vincent Orlando WA5ETS
January 1994	The B-VARC Bulletin	Kelley Hughes N5ULZ
May 1995	The BVARC Bulletin	Larry Levy WD5DRB
August 1995	The B-VARC Bulletin	Jackie Burton KC5OHJ
December 1996	The B-VARC Bulletin	Scott Pederson KI5DR
February 1998	The B-VARC Bulletin	Cameron Mitchell AC5QZ
November 2002	Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club	Marie Schaer KD5UJT
March 2004	Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club	John Whiteman K5LJ
September 2004	Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club	Ken Lee KD5RDR
November 2004	Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club	Jon Chauvin K5IZO



### BLT-49

Wharton Regional Airport  
10 AM – August 26, 2017

Live Digital ATV  
Two GoPro Cameras  
One Burst Cam (looks up at the balloon and records burst)  
70cm to 2M cross-band FM repeater 147.435 up and 446.000 down  
Possible UHF DMR repeater  
Multiple APRS units

Other payloads still under study!

Andy W5ACM

Editor’s Note: Check with the BLT website, [www.w5acm.net](http://www.w5acm.net) for more details as the event approaches.

# The Radio Hotel - What Makes the Best Antenna?

By Rick Hiller -- W5RH

What makes the best antenna? The answer depends on the individual Ham. Hams tend to want low SWR, maximum gain, low (or high) angle of the main radiation lobe, low noise, high front to back ratio, high front to side ratio, etc. Some Hams want just one of these characteristics, some want 2 or more and even some Hams want all of them.

In the May, 1925 QST, W. H. Murphy, states: "The average transmitting amateur has simply got to fit his antenna into his space. Just what makes the best antenna does not concern him very much. He is only interested in 'what makes the best antenna within my space' "

**The TTFD** For example, the TTFD is an aperiodic antenna. It is not a standing wave/resonant antenna, but it is a Traveling Wave Antenna that has a resistor at the end of the antenna current path, hence the name TTFD -- **Tilted, Terminated Folded Dipole**. Yes, you lose power in this resistor, but the benefit is that the antenna has a low SWR across a few octaves of HF radio frequencies. So you can work multiple bands without fear of a high SWR. To get this benefit you have to accept slightly lower gain and lower efficiency, but it does work. For some, this would be the best antenna.

**The Yagi** Another example is a typical 6 meter Yagi-Uda with 4 or more elements. It will have high gain but has a fairly narrow working beamwidth and bandwidth (although the recent GOKSC antenna designs have taken care of this matched bandwidth dilemma with Loop Feeding, OWA, etc.). For the 6 Meter Ham, this is what they want and they don't care about working other bands, so it is the best antenna for them.

**In the end** The best antenna is the one that allows you to work the bands you want, and communicate with the Hams you want, either locally or on the other continents. At the sunspot cycle peak, a dipole strung between 2 clothes line poles in the back yard will work the world, whereas a 4 element SteppIR at 75 feet will hear crickets on the higher bands for the next few years. From a snapshot view, in the first instance, the dipole is a great antenna and, in the second, the SteppIR is not such a good antenna, but we all know that not to be true.

**Learning -- A different path.** What the above descriptions illuminate is that it might be a good thing to learn about antennas – what makes them tick, how they work in conjunction with the surrounding environment, how they are best deployed and how to connect them (correctly) into our radio stations. A side journey into HF propagation might also be worth it.

For those Hams just starting out into the field of antenna understanding, might I suggest a slightly different path. Do not buy the ARRL Antenna Handbook. It is a great book (which you can purchase later), but it has way too much information for the beginner. Rather, purchase (new or used) one of the "cook book" type antenna books being sold by ARRL or others...even older books. For example: The RSGB's Practical Wire Antennas by G3BDQ or ARRL's Simple and Fun Antennas, or Joe Carr's Practical Antenna Handbook. These books put the emphasis on building antennas of all different types and less emphasis on how or why they work. That theoretical knowledge can, and will, come later. Getting a skyhook in the air and using it is the most important thing for you right now.

So, what makes the best antenna? The best antenna (for now) is probably the one you have in your back yard - - "your space". Appreciate what it does for you and strive to improve it thru more practical building and complementary education into the theoretical aspects of these skyhooks. Antennas, as Ham Radio, are not a destination, but a never ending journey. Note -- there are plenty of key words to Google in this article, so have fun and enjoy your hobby.

Next time.... **Broad-banding Nittany Lions Style**



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**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:

06/28/17, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, K5IZO, K5JPP, W5TOM, W5RH, KF5TFJ, W5HFF, K5LJ, W5SU (Dallas), AF5XL.  
(11 Check-Ins)    Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 72, SN = 17, A = 5, K = 1

07/05/17, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TOM, KF5TFJ, K5IZO/5 (Jasper), W5TKZ, WIBG (Katy), W5RH, KF5OXF (Needville),  
W5VOM. (9 Check-Ins)    Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 73, SN = 0, A = 4, K = 0

07/12/17, W5TKZ (NCS), W1BG (Katy), W5TKZ, K5JPP, KF5TFJ, K5IZO, W5TOM, W5RH, W5VOM, KJ5Y (RCS),  
AF5XL, WB5VYR. (12 Check-Ins)    Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 89, SN = 27, A = 8, K = 1

07/19/17, W5RH (NCS), K5JPP, KF5TFJ, W5TKZ, W5TOM, K5LJ, W1BG (Katy), W5VOM, AA5OA, WB4KTF,  
W5RH, WW5PA, AF5XL, K5IZO.    (14 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 74, SN = 0, A = 7, K = 1

(M) = mobile (P) = Portable (R) = Relay (RCS) = remote controlled station (T) = telephone check-in  
Net conditions have been Fair to Good this month. Put your station to the test.  
Come join in the conversation each Wednesday evening.

Regards.  
John K5LKJ

# The Amateur Radio Operators Preparing for the Worst

## **In natural or man-made disasters, ham-radio enthusiasts put their hobby to work.**

There's a sense of urgency in the air at a Virginia nuclear power plant. Everything within at least a five-mile radius is at immediate risk due to a critical meltdown. One of the emergency responders opens the envelope she's holding, scans its contents, and announces the bad news: "We just lost 911 and the cell towers are overloaded."

There are some groans, but the team of amateur radio operators knew this was a possibility, and they're prepared. They have their radios at the ready to coordinate evacuations, making sure that no shelters are overwhelmed and that evacuees arrive at the right locations. Two detach themselves from the rest and make their way over to the lead coordinator. They're acting as the points of contact for all emergency services, which means they're responsible for relaying information about everything from fires to urgent medical care to illegal activities.

It's no small task, especially when there's a nuclear meltdown in the background, but this isn't the first time these radio operators have tackled a problem of this scale: Similar disasters happen every two years, after all. This time, it's an earthquake that caused a cooling tower to fail. Sometimes it's a terrorist attack, or perhaps a hurricane. Fortunately, none of these are real disasters: They're Simulated Emergency Tests (SET), mock disasters that radio-operator groups use to show the typical emergency players—police, the Red Cross, FEMA—that when the worst happens, these hobbyists can be an essential part of the response.

The moniker "ham" as a nickname for amateur radio operators was initially an insult: Professional broadcasters referred to these amateurs as "" as ham-handed. But the newly dubbed hams didn't let that stop them. Amateur radio operating took off at the beginning of the 20th century; by 1910, there were thousands of amateur radio operators, and things were getting noisy. Shoddy workmanship on homemade radios caused disruptive signals across all the bands of radio waves: The signal scattered like drops of paint, splattering onto other nearby bands and disrupting their communications.

The volume of chatter and the potential for disruptions to communications led to the Radio Act of 1912, which required amateur radio operators to be licensed and restricted them to use only a single short wavelength. Around 88 percent of hams quit the hobby, thinking this band too weak and too short to allow them any real fun.

The ones that stuck with it, though, were a dedicated lot. In 1914, Hiram Percy Maxim figured out that you could successfully transmit radio messages across long distances if you had other ham radio operators along the way to leapfrog the signal. He created the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) to organize hams across the nation.

Today the United States is home to more than 700,000 licensed amateur radio operators (including every member of my immediate family—I'm the only one without a ham-radio license, having failed the lowest-level technician test).

Around 40,000 of them are part of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (or ARES, pronounced like the god of war), a subset of the ARRL. There are branches all over the country, and ARES members are the hams that show up at the simulated disasters, ready to relay information wherever it needs to go. They helped out during disasters like Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy and the 9/11 terror attacks—they were the ones getting messages out even after the cellphone towers went down, overloaded by the family members of World Trade Center employees trying to reach their loved ones.

"Our primary mission is to work with local operations to assist with communications when normal means fail to function," says Michael Corey, the national coordinator for ARES. They do this on three main levels: the local level, which would cover disasters like a nuclear meltdown; state level, which would cover more widespread menaces like hurricanes; and the national level, which might involve a mass evacuation in the event of a devastating hurricane or the loss of national communications services due to space weather events.

If you live in a hurricane-vulnerable region like the mid-Atlantic or the Gulf coast, you've likely benefited from ARES's presence. "Hurricanes tend to take out large chunks of infrastructure for short periods of time," explains Corey. "There's about a 72-hour window when normal infrastructure is not operating at its optimum level. In a hurricane, the hams will come in and basically set up those temporary networks until other backup systems can be brought online."

The advantages of ham radios in a disaster situation are twofold: They're free from large infrastructure, and they're incredibly flexible bits of technology. "An emergency operation system might need a big generator to keep things going, but we can get by with batteries or solar power," Corey explains. If a natural or man-made disaster takes out power, Internet, or phone lines, "We can do global communications with nothing between the two systems but ether."

Eugene Spafford, a computer-science professor at Purdue University and a member of the Naval Academy's Cybersecurity Advisory Board, has been thinking about all the ways computers work (and fail) since 1979. "So many [technologies] are interconnected in ways we don't see," he says, "that a longer shutdown lasting weeks or months would be catastrophic."

A key example: global positioning systems, better known as GPS. If you were to lose your ability to use GPS to find directions, it'd be an inconvenience. But if emergency services—ambulance drivers, firefighters, and police—were to lose their navigational ability, it could be deadly.

GPS also plays a key role in time synchronization. Power plants, for example, use GPS to ensure that their generators are emitting electrical currents in sync. Mistimed generators can lead to burnt-out unusable equipment, power failures and fires.

But the satellite system that controls such essential functions isn't foolproof. "A solar flare, certain kinds of attacks that can be committed from the ground, or a hostile nation using anti-satellite weapons could take out our satellite system," Spafford says. "And because those require a space launch of custom built satellites, we couldn't just turn those on a day later." In this hypothetical disaster scenario, that translates to a sustained time without cellphones or GPS-coordinating emergency services, and even the possibility of rolling blackouts.

Radios, though, would continue functioning. "We more or less know how to do the same thing[s these technologies do] without technology, but we've forgotten how to do it," says Spafford. "It's called deskilling."

In the digital age, "we've run into a lot of deskilling," he says. "Many people used to be able to remember phone numbers or have phone books, for example—now we look it up online. If that went away, what would we use?"

There are measures in place to make sure we don't need to find out: There are usually a few spare satellites in orbit, our electric grid is cleverly designed in disconnected pieces. In the case of a cyberattack, it's unlikely that all of a region (or even most of it) would go dark, as the power systems would be able to disconnect from each other and still generate power.

But a more resilient infrastructure, Spafford explains, would be one with low-tech backups in place, too. Power failures are devastating because the general public doesn't know how to live without power. "If we had a power failure that shut off all the gas pumps for a month, the Amish would probably survive just fine," Spafford points out. "It isn't a matter of training them for that eventuality, it's that's the way they live."

Clearly, he isn't advocating that everyone start building sturdy furniture in Pennsylvania. But what he's describing, a trained segment of the population that can keep going when infrastructure fails, sounds a whole lot like ARES.

Ham-radio operators, at least the ones who volunteer for ARES, are in some ways an antidote to Spafford's deskilled millions. The best ones are also using their radios all the time, that if disaster strikes they'll be ready to spring into action.

"What makes us useful is the things we do when nothing is happening, when no big events are going on, and then using the skills we learn through regular practice to assist during a crisis to add capability and capacity," Corey explains.

The ARES member Reid Barden, 20, is one such ham who makes it a point to stay sharp. Barden is the president of the Virginia branch of the Amateur Radio Communication Association (ARCA) and the founder of Virginia Commonwealth University's Amateur Radio Club. Several weekends each year, he volunteers at events like Special Olympics, MS Society bike events, and marathons—events that rely on teams of hams to communicate when an athlete goes missing or a runner needs medical attention.

Volunteering is in many ways at the heart of ham radio. There's no commercial aspect to the hobby—hams aren't paid for their work. There's a reason thousands of hams across the nation spend their time helping out at bike events or to do disaster drills: They need to make themselves present to demonstrate just how essential their skills really are. The average person doesn't like dwelling on the worst-case scenario. But when and if one happens, the most dedicated hams will be ready, radios in hand, to turn a quirky hobby into a network of lifesavers.

**Reprinted from "The Atlantic", March 14, 2016 by Jennifer Hackett;** Submitted by Mike Hardwick, N5VCX



*Minutes of the July 8, 2017 Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club*

Submitted by Jon Noxon, Recording Secretary

Due to a sudden increase of eye problems among members of the Board, the July Board of Directors meeting was canceled. None of the Board members could see themselves missing the Tidelands Hamfest!

Next BoD meeting is scheduled for August 5<sup>th</sup> at the usual venue, Bayland Park at 0900 hours.

## 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, Houston.

Volunteer Examiner Program  
At this time, this program is suspended and being reestablished. Please check the September BVARC Newsletter for more information.

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>

### **08/04-05/2017 | South Texas Section Convention (Austin Summerfest)**

Location: Austin, TX

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Austin ARC & Texas VHF-FM Society

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

### **10/07/2017 | HamEXPO**

Location: Belton, TX

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Temple Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://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** amateur radio testing is being reorganized. Check upcoming newsletters or the BVARC website for developments.

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)

NOTE: Officers, advertising and eating schedule are on the website. They will only be published in the Newsletter every few months.

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**VOLUME 41, ISSUE 8**

**AUGUST 2017**

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

**FIRST CLASS POSTAGE**

**BVARC Ice Cream Social and General Membership Meeting – Thursday, August 10**



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