



BVARC BEACON



Newsletter of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

MAY 2018

VOLUME 42 ISSUE 5

BVARC MAY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, May 10, 2018 7:30pm, 421 Eldridge

As this article goes to press, this information is not available. Please check the website as the event approaches and listen on the nets and on the repeater.



REPORT ON THE MARCH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

A full report is not available at press time.

The featured speaker was Jeff Walter, KE5FGA. Jeff is the ARES District 14 Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC). Jeff's presentation was about ARES and what they have done over the past few years for the flooding and details of Hurricane Harvey activities.



Highlighting some upcoming events of interest to BVARC members.

Details for some of these are given in Mike Hardwick's (N5VCX) article "The Prez Says" on Page 2 of this issue.

MS-150 – By the time you read this, the MS-150 will have occurred. Details are given in Mike's article on Page 2. More info should be available at May's General Membership Meeting.

Museum Ship's Weekend – June 4, 5 & 6. See Mike's article for more info.

Hamcom – Plano, TX. June 8. The West Gulf Division Convention. See reference in Mike's article and more info under "Hamfests" toward the end of this issue.

Field Day – June 23 & 24. See Mike's article for more info.

Texas City Hamfest, July 7. More info is under "Hamfests" toward the end of this issue.

The Prez Says

This will be a little short since it is BP MS150 weekend and I am up to my ears on getting things ready. The ridership is down some but that doesn't mean support has dropped. This multi-million dollar event still requires the following for reliable communications for the participants and volunteers:

- 350 Commercial VHF handheld radios
- 7 VHF repeaters installed at La Grange and in Austin
- 80 GPRS GPS vehicle trackers
- 150 multi-band Public safety handheld radios

Besides the commercial equipment we also have:

- 12 amateur radio repeaters that are link together between Houston and Austin
- 30 APRS GPS units on the course
- 125 ham radio operators
- A command post staff completely by ham operators

It is a huge event when you consider the logistics and issues of organization. I am glad that I volunteer for it because it lets me put my radio and license to a great use!

With June just around the corner, that means three things are coming up – Museum Ships Weekend (MSWE), Hamcom and Field day. These events are some of the biggest amateur radio functions in the state and we should try and attend and support them. If you can make sure you sign up to help at MSWE or Field Day and try to attend Hamcom. Hope to see you at one of these events.

MSWE will be held again at Seawolf Park in Galveston. If you are interested in helping or joining the event, contact Mark Janzer, K5MGJ at k5mgj@yahoo.com and let him know you are interested. Mark has been scheduling work parties and there should be one more before the first weekend of June. I believe this year we will be operating from both the Stewart and Cavalle. So get ready for MSWE and let Mark know you would like to volunteer.

Field Day is just a few weekends later and this year will be very different. This year's Field Day will be held at Duhashok Park near the Sugar Land Airport. Get ready for a great place with lots of room. This year we will again have four clubs working together to bring a great score. With BVARC, TDXS, ECHO and KARS I feel that the group will really bring in a great score as well open people's eyes to the hobby. If you would like to help, contact Scott Medbury and let him know.

Hope to see everyone at the general meeting on the 10th.

73,
N5VCX



Where in the world is . . .
Vanuatu(YJ)
CQ Zone 3Z
IOTA OC-035



The Republic of Vanuatu is a group of islands in the South Pacific. Before its independence in 1980, It was known as the New Hebrides, after an area in Scotland formerly known as the Hebrides.

During this period, the islands were governed by a joint British and French government. It was a rare, almost comical form of colonial territory in which sovereignty were shared by two powers, Britain and France, instead of just one.

Under the Condominium, as it was called, there were three separate governments – one French, one British, and one joint administration that was partially elected after 1975. The French and British governments were called residencies, each headed by a resident appointed by the metropolitan government. The residency structure greatly emphasized dualism, with both consisting of an equal number of French and British representatives, bureaucrats and administrators. Every member of one residency always had an exact mirror opposite number on the other side who they could consult.

The joint government consisted of both local and European officials. It had jurisdiction over the postal service, public radio station, public works, infrastructure, and censuses, among other things.



Local people could choose whether to be tried under the British common law or the French civil law. Visitors could choose which immigration rules to enter under. Nationals of one country could set up corporations under the laws of the other. In addition to these two legal systems, a third Native Court existed to handle cases involving Melanesian customary law. The presiding judge of the Native Court was appointed by the King of Spain however, not by the British or the French.

There were two prison systems to complement the two court systems. The police force is technically unified but consisted of two chiefs and two equal groups of officers wearing two different uniforms.



Vanuatu is an island archipelago consisting of 82 relatively small islands. The total area is about 4700 Square miles only 1800 of which is dry land. The four mainstays of economy are agriculture, tourism, offshore financial services, and cattle.

Among this island's 266,000 people, there are 52 licensed amateurs, according to QRZ (not counting visitors or DXpeditions). Vanuatu ranks 97th on Club Log's DXCC Most wanted List

Reporting from the Dark Side, K5HM





BVARC Rag Chew Net

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

03/28/18, K5LKJ (NCS), K5IZO, KF5TFJ, K5LJ, W5RH, KD5CDM, KJ5Y (RCS)(W5FMH/club)(Angleton), W5VOM, KG5GLX, KB5MEI (Fort Smith, AK). (10 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 67, SN = 0, A = 9, K = 0

04/04/18, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, KF5TFJ, K5IZO/5 (Jasper), W5TKZ, K5LJ, WA5CYI, N5XZ/5 (RCS)(Angleton), KC5VXC (Honey Grove), W5VOM(RCS)(Port O'Connor). (10 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 67, SN = 0, A = 4, K = 2

04/11/18, W5TKZ (NCS), KD5O, W5VOM. (3 Check-Ins)

(Like, help! What happened? You could have been having fun.)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 68, SN = 0, A = 18, K = 0

04/18/18, K5LKJ (NCS), W5VOM, K5JPP, KF5TFJ, W5TKZ, W1BG (Katy), W5TOM, K5LJ. (8 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 68, SN = 0, A = 4, K = 2

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

Net conditions have been Fair this month. Check out your station.

Come join in the conversation each Wednesday evening, 7:00PM, 3910 +/- 3 KHz.

Regards. John K5LKJ



Marconi Spark Key as used on the Titanic



MINUTES
Board of Directors Meeting
Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

April 7, 2018 9:00 AM
Bayland Park Community Center
6400 Bissonnet, Houston, Texas

Board Members Present:

Mike Hardwick N5VCX (President)
Jon Noxon KF5TFJ (Rec. Secretary)

Donovan Balli KG5BDZ (Treasurer)

Mike Monsour AC0TX (Corresponding Secretary)*

A business quorum was established.

Recorded by Jon Noxon, KF5TFJ Recording Secretary

- 1) Call to Order: The President called the meeting to order at 9:22 AM.
- 2) Emergency Business: Selection of a temporary Corresponding Secretary. See next item.*
- 3) Establishment of Quorum: Elected Corresponding Secretary KI5ET Kieth Stolle has resigned as he is moving to Austin. Mike Monsour AC0TX named to fill the position on a temporary basis. A business quorum was established.
- 4) Approval of Agenda: A motion made and seconded to approve the agenda.
- 5) Club President's Opening Statement: The President thanked those present for attending the meeting.
- 6) Approval of Minutes from Previous BOD Meeting: The Board approved the minutes for the February 3 BoD meeting.
- 7) Approval of Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was approved.
- 8) Old Business:
 - 8a. General Membership Meetings scheduled as follows, with topics not listed to be determined:
 - April 12, 2018 "ARES" presentation by Jeff Walters
 - May 10, 2018 TBD
 - June 14, 2018 TBDDiscussion for future meetings included hands-on microprocessors/controllers; Sky Warn; APRS.
 - 8b. No update for next Museum Ships Workday
 - 8c. Planning for 2018 Museum Ship's Weekend discussed.
 - 8b. Planning for 2018 ARRL Field Day discussed. Scott Medbury to chair FD again. Duhacsek Park will be the location.
 - 8c. Scott Medbury is working on an Amateur Radio Night at Constellation Field during an upcoming Skeeters home game.
- 9) New Business:
 - Budget for Field Day discussed and approved at \$1000.00
 - Budget for Museum Ships Weekend discussed and approved at \$600.00
 - Budget for Greater Houston Hamfest discussed and approved at \$12,000.00
 - Budget for advertising of GHHF on HAM RADIO 2.0 discussed and approved at \$540.00
- 10) Next BOD meeting date: May 5
Future BoD dates: June 9, July 7, August 4, September 8 , October 6, November 3, December 1* NOTE: date changed from December 8, for which a room was not available.
- 11) Comments: Nothing of substance
- 12) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.



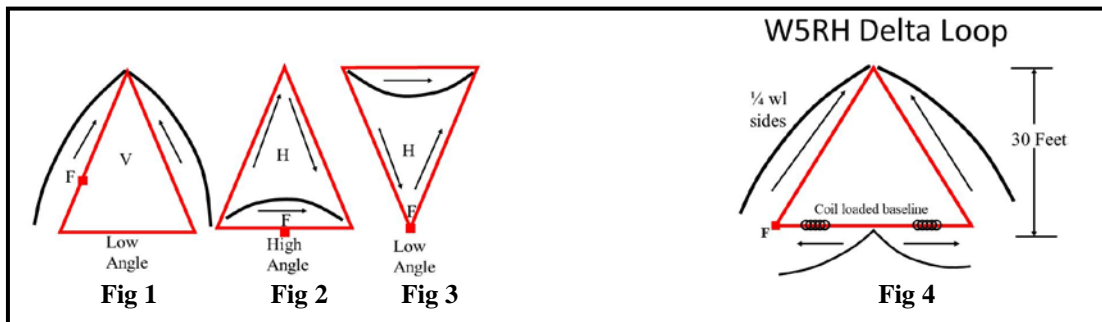
The Radio Hotel- The Saga of the Full Wave Loops

Part 3 – Triangular Loops – The Delta Loop

My favorite antenna of all times is the Delta Loop. Definition -- A 1 wavelength, triangular shaped loop, hung in a vertical orientation and fed in the appropriate location. I have worked all over the world with my customized Delta Loop antenna from my small Sharpstown lot (Of course, the solar cycle was in pretty good shape back then).

So what is so great about Deltas? They are ground independent, can be deployed with the baseline close to the ground, has a low, vertically polarized main lobe launch angle, a single hanging point (in the apex up configuration), easy feed point logistics and efficient shortening tactics. Sound good? Let's have a look.

Shaping the Loop. Look at the flexibility of a single delta loop shape. [Ref: figures 1, 2, 3 below] -- Feed $\frac{1}{4}$ wl down the side for low angle take off.....feed in the middle of the bottom for NVIS work. Flipped over and fed at the bottom, the launch angle is dependent on the height above ground, but the horizontally polarized ground gain is attractive.



More flexibility comes in the form of the shape of the triangle – using maximum vertical space or minimal. Remember your geometry? Triangles: Isosceles or Right Angle. Iso triangle is a 60 degree angle at each corner (max vertical height with 2 equal length sides) and the Right Angle is a 90 degree angle at the apex, 45's at each baseline corner. The top loop angle can be increased only to 120 degrees, but then you start to lose gain.

Loading. The delta can be loaded (shortened) to be physically smaller, but still maintain the low angle of radiation. Even the feed point becomes easier to implement being at the bottom corner. See figure 4 – the W5RH 40 Meter DX Delta. Some, like K1YZW, (see 1998 QST Hints and Kinks) loaded the top and moved the max current point up the side creating a smaller loop with a bit more gain. This method has recently been used again in the winner of the ARRL HF antenna contest (See March 2018 QST).

The benefits and flexibility above only happen when the loop is vertically oriented, perpendicular to the earth. Place it in a horizontal position and you get the same results as a square horizontal loop....typically NVIS. (More on horizontal loops next time).

Feeding the Delta loops. Most loops whether square or triangle, horizontally polarized or vertically polarized have a resonant feed Z of about 100 ohms. The easiest method to feed them is with a Series Section Transformer (SST) – $\frac{1}{4}$ wl section of 75 ohm coax. $\frac{1}{4}$ wl SST's give a Z transformation -- 100 ohms transforms to 50 ohms. The bandwidth of the transform is quite wide, according to my experience. I also take the 75 ohm coax and wind it into a 8 inch diameter coil at the feedpoint, to help with attenuating antenna currents on the coax shield.

Loop Series Bibliography. Eddie, NU5K, has placed a bibliography list on the BVARC Tech Articles web site at www.bvarc.org/tech "Full Wave Loop Antenna Series Bibliography": lots to research and reading to get you fully knowledgeable on Full Wave Loops. Enjoy your hobby. 73...Rick – W5RH

Next time.... Full Wave Loops -- Part 4 – Horizontal loops and Arrays

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.





Hamfests

(typically within 200 miles of Houston)

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

06/08/2018 | West Gulf Division Convention (Ham-Com 2018)

Location: Plano, TX
Type: ARRL Convention
Sponsor: Ham-Com, Inc.
Website: <http://www.hamcom.org>

07/07/2018 | Texas City Hamfest

Location: Texas City, TX
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Tidelands Amateur Radio Society
Website: <http://www.tidelands.org>

08/03/2018 | Texas State Convention (Austin Summerfest 2018)

Location: Austin, TX
Type: ARRL Convention
Sponsor: Austin ARC & Texas VHF-FM Society
Website: <http://www.austinsummerfest.org>



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:

8/7 - 20 - Dave, k5ekw	9/11 - 22 - Luke, k0ltb	3/19 - 16 - Chris, wb5itt
8/14 - no net	9/18 - 14 - Jo, ke7nsb	3/26 - 15 - Clint, kf5ndf
8/21 - 10 - Jo, ke7nsb	2018	4/2 - 14 - Dave, k5ekw
8 - Harvey	2/26 - 20 - Clint, kf5ndf	4/9 - 15 - Bill, kg5fqx
9/4 - 9 - Jo, ke7nsb	3/5 - 23 - Dave, k5ekw	

BVARC QUICK STATS

Date	Members	Newsletters	Life Members
4/24/18	177	177	67



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

This newsletter, the **BVARC BEACON**, is a monthly publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club. For a full listing of officers and information about BVARC, please go to www.bvarc.org. Detailed information will be published in the BEACON every 3 or 4 months. Similarly, the "Eating Schedule" will be published every 3 or 4 months unless there is a change.

General membership dues are \$25.00 per year, with student dues \$10.00 per year, additional family members \$5.00 per member per year.

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

BVARC 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

Other contacts include:

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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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**BRAZOS VALLEY
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SUGAR LAND, TX 77487-2997
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

BVARC General Membership Meeting – Thursday, May 10



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