



BVARC BEACON



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

APRIL 2019

VOLUME 43 ISSUE 4

BVARC APRIL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, April 11th, 2019 7:30pm, 421 Eldridge

The upcoming general meeting will be a hands on introduction to Android and Android programming. Jon Noxon (KF5TFJ) will have Arduino Nanos available (for a small fee). Bring a laptop to program your own, at the meeting. A proposed project is the power meter and dummy load from the November 2018 QST. See another article on this elsewhere in this edition of the BVARC BEACON.

We'll also discuss the upcoming public service events like the MS 150 (April 27th & 28th) and the logistics and operator opportunities for Field Day (June 22-23) at Duhacsek Park.

REPORT ON THE MARCH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The presentation was about the Buffalo Bayou Regatta and amateur radio participation in it, as a public service, by Mark Janzer (K5MGJ). Also, Donovan Balli (KG5BDZ) presented information about the upcoming (and regular) "Build-It Saturdays" where space, tools and Elmers will be provided to build ham related stuff – like maybe an Arduino WSPR transmitter or any kit or homebrew project you'd like to solder together and test. Look for more info on this upcoming event in the newsletter.

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND

Planning and preparations for Museum Ships Weekend, May 31, June 1-2, 2019 are in full swing. It's one of BVARC's legacy annual operating events. It is a great introduction to operating in conditions like Field Day, in a non-competitive event. All are welcome to participate. We'll have three stations available for operations. Two will be on the Stewart (one is within sight of the Selma) and one will be in the Cavalla. Food and (non-alcoholic) beverages will be available. There will be limited overnight accommodations available on the Stewart. Please register to attend by contacting Mark Janzer (K5MGJ).

A pre-mobilization event will be held on Saturday April 13th, on board the ships. We'll erect the TDXS SteppIR antenna and test it with some radio operations. We might replace the submarine's original wire antenna, too.

The museum ships are:

[USS Stewart](#)

WWII Destroyer Escort

Galveston, TX

[SS Selma](#)

WWI Merchant ship (Concrete Hull)

Galveston, TX

[USS Cavalla](#)

WWII Submarine

Galveston, TX

The Prez Says

It happened. It really happened. The 2019 Greater Houston HamFest was pulled off and was a success. Turnout was approximately the same as the last two years which only means one thing – WE must work harder for next year! So many things went right this year – Kelly “Evel Knievel” Medbury was screaming through the parking lots on her trusty golf cart picking up people helping them back to their vehicles, Donovan was busy trying not to burn his hands while teaching people to solder, the balloon launches were a great success (with one still floating around 5 days later), and last but not least our food service was first class. It was a great success and it couldn't have been done without the great volunteers from BVARC and KARS.

The ARRL forum had nearly 90 attendees making it the largest in attendance in the GHHF history. With Ed Hare, W1RFI (I wished I had that call), ARRL Laboratory Manger, John Stratton, N5AUS, West Gulf Division Director and Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW, ARRL South Texas Section Manager, I know why we had such a great turn-out. I really appreciate the support from the ARRL for the Greater Houston HamFest.

An Icom IC-7300, was the grand prize in the HamFest raffle. The lucky ticket belonged to Rickard Arthur, N5RGA of Texarkana. The convention prize, an Anytone AT-D878UV, went to Andy McAllister, W5ACM of Houston. Besides the raffle, there were several hundred dollars of prizes given away as door prizes. It was a great time for quite a few hams on prizes!

The Hamfest steering committee did a wonderful job this year organizing the event. From the front gate area to the ticket booth to the announcer's stand to the programs, everyone did a wonderful job. I just want to say thanks to the people that volunteered their time to help and make the event a wonderful success. So, mark your calendar for March 7th, 2020 for the next Greater Houston HamFest!

If you would like to help on a public service event, the **BP MS150 is coming up April 27th and 28th**. 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 1st and 2nd. Mark Janzer, N5MGJ will be coordinating this year and is working on getting everything ready for a great event. There are still a few mobilization parties between now and June so come on down and help get the radio room working for MSWE. Check the newsletter next month for more information.

And don't forget **ARRL Field Day June 22nd and 23rd**. Plans are already underway for this year's event and everything is in full swing. We will be back at Duhasek Park this year which is great on antenna placement, parking and operating. There will be a planning meeting in May so keep your eye on the newsletter and the web site. In order to volunteer, please come to the meetings or contact anyone on the board of directors.

73,
N5VCX

...Almost Here!!!

Thursday April 11 General Meeting 7:30 pm at the Sugar Land Masonic Lodge

Arduino 101—*Have you signed up?* We'll cover the basics of getting started with the Arduino, and do some simple programming. We encourage YOUR participation. Sign up for your very own Arduino Nano by sending an email to jon@noxon.cc. The cost for this little device is four bucks (exactly 4/10's of a sawbuck) and will be yours to keep and continue to learn on. Participants will need to bring a laptop/notebook computer with USB, a mini-USB data cable and perhaps the power supply for your computer. No laptop? Let me know and I'll bring one for you to use (supply is limited).

This program needs you, and even if you do not want hands-on participation with your very own Arduino, you can still learn how much fun there is by watching others have fun. There are dozens of projects for Ham Radio already published by the ARRL in book, QST articles and QEX articles. Search the internet using the key phrase 'ham radio arduino'. I did just that and got over 7 million hits!

All the available Arduino Nanos are not yet spoken for, but to be fair, first come first served.

Here is what a mini-USB connector looks like.



The Radio Hotel

Due to a death in the author's family and personal matters, this article will not appear this month. Look for it to return, hopefully next month.

**Where in the World is . . .
St. Paul Island**

**Saint Paul Island(CY9)
CQ Zone 5 ITU Zone 9
IOTA NA-094**

St. Paul Island is a small uninhabited island located approximately 15 mi northeast of Cape Breton Island, Newfoundland in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

It is at the northern end of the Appalachian Mountains; the highest point is 485 feet atop “Croggan Mountain.”

St. Paul Island is approximately three miles long by one mile wide at its widest point. It is extremely rugged with its shores being completely encircled by rockface cliffs.

The only land mammals inhabiting the island are rabbits, which were set loose after the lifesaving station was established in the late 1800's. The ramp and massive rowboat for 10 men were still there in 1950. An enormous house also used by the radio range station operators and families up to the 1950's. The remains of a WWII Royal Canadian Air Force radar station is also still there. It is also inhabited by numerous seabirds.



There are also two small lakes in the interior stocked with trout. Its ecosystem is considered fragile and due to the danger posed by visiting the island, visits must be cleared beforehand with the Canadian Coast Guard.



Figure 1 Radio gear used by VE1FT on St. Paul, Circa late 1930's

The island is nicknamed the “Graveyard of the Gulf” (of St. Lawrence) as it is fog-bound throughout much of the navigation season and posed a significant hazard during the Age of Sail.

A lighthouse was first established on the island in 1839. This lighthouse burned down in 1916. It was eventually replaced by an automated system in 1962.

With the light station now automated using solar power, the island sees few visitors, aside from Canadian Coast Guard helicopters on

maintenance trips. The island used to host a Marconi wireless station and it still sees occasional amateur radio operators who use the callsign prefix CY9. Other visitors include birdwatchers and SCUBA divers.

Expeditions to the island for amateur radio purposes take place in the summer months of July or August. The Coast Guard will no longer give permission to use the remaining buildings on the island, all in poor shape, so operation takes place from tents.

Before July and after August the weather becomes too severe and unpredictable to permit a safe activation. The latest DXpedition, an American team plans to be on the island August 1 – 11, 2019 with call sign CY9C. The island is number 70 on the ClubLog DXCC Most Wanted List.



**St. Paul Island (KL)
CQ Zone 1 ITU Zone 1
NA-028**

On the opposite side of the continent from the Gulf of St. Lawrence lies the other St. Paul Island. Part of the Pribilof Islands group, off the coast of mainland Alaska, in the Bering Sea, The Siberian coast is roughly 500 miles northwest. About 77 square miles in total area, it is the largest of the group. St. Paul is mostly rocky and are covered with tundra and a population of 457 humans



The Pribilofs, were discovered in 1786 by Russian fur traders; no Alaskan natives are known to have lived on the island prior to this point. They named the larger island to the north St. Peter and the smaller St. Paul.

In 1788, the Russians forcibly relocated [Aleuts](#) from mainland Alaska to the Pribilofs to hunt [fur seals](#); their descendants live

on the two islands today. After the Civil War, the U.S. purchased Alaska from the Russian Empire for \$7.2 million. It became known as Seward's Folly, for the Secretary of State who brokered the deal. Others though, praised the move for weakening both the UK and Russia as rivals to American commercial expansion in the Pacific. Twenty years later, gold was discovered in Alaska.

In 1870-1910, the Alaska Commercial Company was awarded a sealing lease by the U.S. Government. By the end of that period, the fur seals had been severely over-harvested. The 1910 [Fur Seal Treaty](#) ended private sealing on the islands and placed the community and fur seals under the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries.

The climate of St. Paul is Arctic maritime. The Bering Sea location results in cool weather year-round and a narrow range of mean temperatures varying from 19 to 51 degrees fahrenheit. Average precipitation is 25 inches, with snowfall of 56 inches.

Heavy fog is common during summer months.



So, what's to do on St. Paul Island? If you like birds, fish or seals, you are in luck. St. Paul is a port for the Central Bering Sea fishing fleet. Two seafood processing plants process cod, crab, halibut and other seafoods in St. Paul. Think, *Discovery Channel's, Deadliest Catch* reality show.

There is also a reindeer herd on the island. Residents subsist on halibut, fur seals, reindeer, marine invertebrates, plants and berries. Sounds, delicious.

Ham radio? Oh, I got so carried away, I forgot to mention that. Well, it is only 500 miles from the east coast of Russia. If you are working on your 5 Band DXCC, you can probably pick up some of that good DX you need for 80 and 40 meters. There is no recent record of any DXpeditions, to this St. Paul Island. In WWII, the Japanese threatened the island but even they sailed on past. St. Paul is so rare, that it does not even appear on ClubLog's Most Wanted DXCC list.

Reporting from the Dark Side,
Ron Litt, K5HM



Ham Oriented Build Sessions

BVARC is organizing ham-oriented build sessions. The idea is to schedule time to spend on the hobby, and get together with other people to share knowledge, skills, and equipment. These won't usually be formal kit build sessions, just some time to get together and work on your projects. The first session is April 6, and we'll cover all types of soldering, with a few types of sample boards.

We'll have simple kits available at each session, so you can show up without anything and still be able to build something. Or you can bring tools and parts to work on any project you want. We'll have the club's soldering supplies at the sessions. And if you need some tools or test equipment, we can try to find a club member who can bring them. For more info contact Donovan Balli at 281-844-8377 or dballi@mail.com.

April 6, 12 PM to 2 PM (option to stay until 4 PM)
Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston, TX 77074

From Berlin with Balloons

Andy MacAllister W5ACM

Launching amateur-radio balloon payloads at the Greater Houston Hamfest has become a part of the flight schedule for the BLT (South Texas Balloon Launch Team). Although the 2019 plan was originally supposed to be a simple payloads on one or two latex balloons, things got a bit more complicated in a hurry.

Major flights usually get integer designators like BLT-50, our primary flight in August 2018. The plan for the 2019 Greater Houston Hamfest Flights was to fly BLT-50.1 and BLT-50.2 with small but entertaining payloads. When Thomas KT5TK offered to send us the latest creation by him and Sven AF5LI, we knew that we would really go for advanced payloads and new gear.

Although quite diminutive, BLT-51 carried one of the most advanced APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System) trackers available. The circuit board with GPS receiver, computer, power inverter and frequency-agile, two-meter transmitter was slightly larger than a penny and weighed just over one gram. The board was labeled Femto Pecan 4a, dated February 2019. It showed up at my house the Wednesday before flight via Urgent FedEx Express direct from Berlin. We tested it later that evening at the Secret BLT Lab in Sugar Land. Power was a single lithium AA battery. It worked! Tom K5SAF had two 36" diameter Mylar "party" balloons ready to go for an attempted long-distance "floater" flight. The goal was to at least make it to the east Coast of Georgia or the Carolinas.

The 25 mW transmitter in the Femto Pecan changes the output frequency to any standard 2-Meter APRS frequency depending on location. This way it would be on the local APRS frequency anywhere in the world. The unit also sends several channels of telemetry including battery voltage, two internal temperatures and the number of satellites currently received. It did not have solar panels due to their incompatibility with the power inverter IC in the current revision.

With BLT-51 ready to go, we got to work on BLT-52 – the latex "popper". I wanted to fly a "smart beeper" that would ID in CW with W5ACM followed by the temperature in Fahrenheit. This payload dates back to an article in a 1990 "73 Amateur Radio" magazine. It described a minimalist 10-Meter transmitter using one 5-Volt 28.322 MHz PC oscillator. Bill Brown WB8ELK and others achieved CW contacts with these 20-50 mW devices. Bill later devised some additional circuitry to key the device on and off according to a simple low-frequency oscillator circuit that included a thermistor. At room temperature the transmitter would beep up to 150 times per minute, but at extremely low temperatures, the repetition rate would decline to only a few beeps per minute.

We have been flying these "beepers" as disposable payloads for many years, but Payload Master John AB5SS wanted something better. He has been through several iterations and improvements since 2010. We opted for his Rev. 5.1 with PC board, smart temperature probe, processor and oscillators on 14.318 and 28.322 MHz. No more hassle counting beeps and looking up temperatures on a chart. We still have to record time and values for later analysis, but it works well, and flew with two other payloads.

A second payload for BLT-52 was a cross-band FM repeater with input on 147.435 MHz and output on 446.550 MHz. It was composed of two dual-band Baofeng HTs stripped to the bare circuit boards. The antennas were vertical dipoles made from thin 75-Ohm coax. The total weight with batteries was just over 4 ounces. We had some issues during launch and something apparently came apart in the cross-band repeater. The idea was a good one though, and we will certainly try this again!

A general consensus of the BLT was to fly an additional APRS tracker on BLT-52. We talked with Bill WB8ELK at the 2018 AMSAT Symposium in Huntsville, Alabama, about his commercially available unit. He sells them with a battery holder for three AA cells or with solar panels for "floater" flights. We ordered one with the battery pack knowing that the "popper" flight would just last a few hours and probably end up in the Gulf of Mexico.

At the GHF we started our day with the preparation and flight of BLT-51 at 9 AM. The party balloon was carefully filled by John AB5SS and Payload Master Bill KG5FQX. A dime was taped to the bottom of the balloon. The balloon was then filled with just enough helium to have it float in the air without rising or falling. The dime was removed and Tom K5SAF let it go! We were flying with perfect APRS packets! Maximum altitude was around 24,000 feet. That's a bit low for a flight of this nature since storms and other weather issues can get in the way.

After Andy W5ACM had completed his 11:30 – 12:30 high-altitude BLT presentation, balloon filling and payload preparations began for BLT-52. Total weight of all payloads was a remarkable eight ounces. BLT Payload Coordinator Mike WA5TWT and Bill KG5FQX did a superb job with the fill operation of the small latex balloon. The subsequent sealing and attachment process was completed by Andy W5ACM and Helium Czar Darrell KC5JAR. Most of the crew was needed to stretch out the payloads as Darrell let it all fly into the clear afternoon at 1 PM.

BLT-52 lasted a few hours and popped at 93,000 ft. Reception of the CW beacons on 14.318 MHz and 28.322 MHz was easy with small antennas throughout the flight. BLT-52 landed somewhere in East Bay near Bolivar. We know that because the APRS data from WB8ELK's Tracker was flawless. Packets from W5ACM-11 were received down to 3,000 ft.

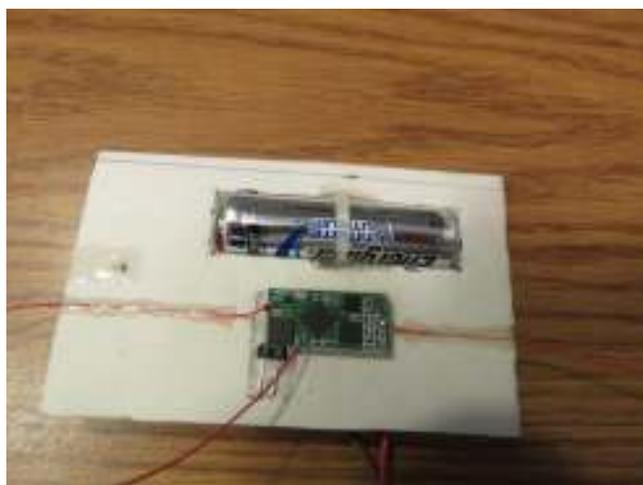
Although we were hoping just to get to the US east coast with BLT-51 (beaconing as W5ACM-10), we were delighted to get stable altitude and solid battery voltage data via <http://aprs.fi> when the payload floated out of range of the last Carolina digipeater. Path estimates showed possible flights to Europe or North Africa. Will it turn up somewhere across the pond still in flight and on the air? That was unknown at the time of writing, but we are certainly getting more confident with floater flights. A video of the launch of BLT-51 can be seen at the South Texas Balloon Launch Team Facebook page. More payload information and many photos and data gleaned from previous BLT flights can be found at <http://www.w5acm.net>.

Join us for BLT-53 from the Wharton Intergalactic Spaceport at 10AM on September 28, 2019.

To The Edge of Space!



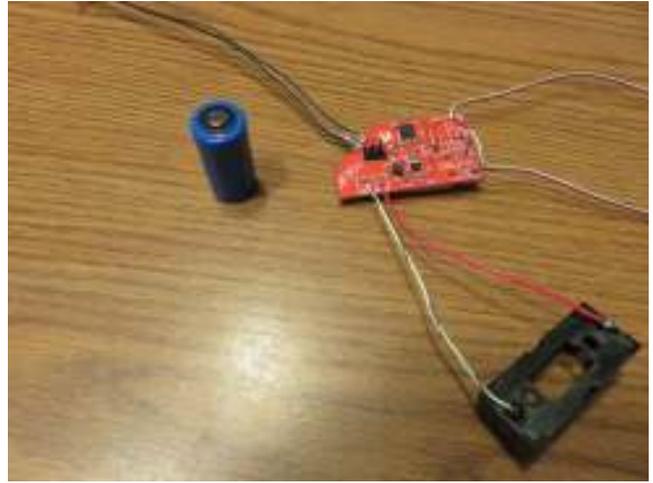
BLT-51 Gassed Up Perfectly



BLT-51 Femto Pecan APRS Tracker



BLT-51 BLT-52 Final Build Meeting



BLT-52 Smart Beeper



BLT-52 Cross-band Repeater



BLT-51 Ready for Flight



Fellow Ham and BVARC Board Member needs an occasional ride

Jo. L. Keener, KE7NSB, who had been in the hospital for surgery and rehab thereafter, recovered enough to make the Hamfest having been given a ride by a fellow ham. He is unable to drive and requests fellow ham members to offer to give him rides to the membership meetings, BOD meetings and other activities. He and his wife also need periodic rides to the grocery store, the pharmacy and doctor's appointments. He lives near Rt. 6 and Murphy Rd. Please consider offering him a periodic lift.

BVARC Rag Chew Net

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

02/27/19, K5LKJ (NCS), K5IZO, W5VOM, W5TKZ, AA5OA (Fort Smith, AR), W1BG (Katy), K5LJ, K5JPP, KG5WPE, K2MPP. (10 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 70, SN = 0, A = 11, K = 3 / Band Rpt: Fair

03/06/19, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, W5VOM, K5LJ, W5TKZ, W5TOM, AA5OA (Fort Smith, AR), WW5PA, K2MPP, KG5WPE, KG5YYQ, KJ5Y (RCS)(W5FMH/club) (Angleton). (12 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 73, SN = 14, A = 5, K = 1 / Band Rpt: Fair

03/13/19, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, K5JPP, W5VOM, K5JPP, K5LJ, K5IZO, KG5WPE, AA5OA (Fort Smith, AR), KJ5Y (RCS)(W5FMH/club) (Angleton).

(10 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 69, SN = 11, A = 7, K = 0 / Band Rpt: Fair

03/20/19, K5LKJ (NCS), W5VOM/5 (M)(Beasley), W5TKZ, K5LJ, K2MPP, AA5OA (Fort Smith, AR), KJ5Y (RCS)(W5FMH/club) (Angleton), WW5PA, K5JPP, K5IZO, W5TOM. (11 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 69, SN = 15, A = 7, K = 1 / Band Rpt: Fair – Good

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

Net conditions have been fair to good this month. Learn what others are doing.

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



HAMFEST VE - FCC TESTING SESSION RESULTS

For the Saturday March 23rd hamfest test session: We had 18 candidates.

New Licensees:

Fleming, P. (Technician)

Harrison, A. (Technician)

Jackson, J. (Technician)

Sweeney, Jacob (Technician)

Thorn T. (Technician)

Williams, G. (Technician)

Krawczyk, S. (General)

Miller, D. (General)

Sewell, C. (General)

Passed General

KI5DNO

KG5ATQ

KI5USA

KI5CDQ

N5STA

Passed Extra

KD5AJZ

KI5DRY

W5JEF

KK5ZV

Congratulations to all!

A great thank you to the VEs in attendance and those offering to be on deck.

Examination sessions are held each month, usually on the same day as the Saturday BVARC Board meeting.

These sessions are at the Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074

The next session is Saturday, April 6.

Details for candidates are found at www.bvarc.org/home/amateur-license/

Call Mark Janzer, K5MGJ at (832) 875-0526 or eMail: (k5mgj@yahoo.com) to pre-register.

MINUTES
Board of Directors Meeting
Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

March 9, 2019 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 via
Telecon)

Jeff Greer W5JEF (Cor. Secretary)
Jimmy Vance W5ZTX (1 Yr Director)

Visitors

Michael Monsour AC0TX
Eddie Runner NU5K

Recorded by Jon Noxon, KF5TFJ Recording Secretary

- 1) Call to Order: The President called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.
- 2) Establishment of Quorum: A business quorum was established upon late arrival of one board member.
- 3) Approval of Agenda: A motion made and seconded to approve the agenda.
- 4) Club President's Opening Statement: The President thanked those present for attending the meeting.
- 5) Emergency Business:
- 6) Approval of Minutes from Previous BOD Meeting: The Board approved the minutes for the February 2019 BoD meeting.
- 7) Approval of Treasurer's Report: The Board approved the Treasurer's Report.
- 8) Old Business:

General Membership Meetings scheduled as follows, with topics not listed to be determined:

March 14, 2019 (Balloon Launch Presentation plus obligatory Ham Fest stuff); Regatta presentation by Mark Janzer and Donovan Bali Kit Building Design and techniques)

April 11, 2019 (Arduino 101- Jon Noxon)

May 9, 2019 FD (General Info on FD and Museum Ships, Hams for Hospitals)

June 13, 2019 (TBD)

Status of Museum Ships donations; pending Ham Fest proceeds. "Cool Dude" will donate labor for A/C. Museum Ships work party to be scheduled prior to event to run COAX etc.

Topics for club meetings discussed. (suggestions included Slow-Scan TV, Satellite operations and Hams for Hospitals)

Privatization of the club roster discussed; decision placed in abeyance. Subject to be presented briefly to membership at general meeting and via Beacon to gauge member's desires.

Status of Museum Ships donations; pending Ham Fest proceeds.

9) New Business:

- Motion to offer next raffle on a fixed number of tickets basis passed. NOTE: Donovan stated we are restricted to one raffle at a time.
- Motion to cash out CD (rather than roll-over) to fund next raffle prize passed.
- Saturday "kit building sessions" at Bayland Park Community Center April 6 12:00 to 16:00.

10. Cost Saving Measures: Still looking into this on an on-going item. Meeting place, Awards Banquet and Storage Locker are major expenses.

11. Next BOD meeting date: April 6, 2019

Future BoD dates: (all 2019) May 4, Jun 8, July 6, Aug 3, Sep 7, Oct 5, Nov 9, Dec 7 is Possible conflict with Pearl Harbor Event

12. Comments:

13. Adjournment 10:25

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:

12/31 - 10 - Terry, k5pgf 2019	1/28 - 16 - Clint, kf5ndf 2/4 - 14 - Dave, k5ekw 2/11 - 17 - Bill, kg5fqx 2/18 - 14 - Dave, k5ekw 2/25 - 11 - Clint, kf5ndf	3/4 - 14 - Dave, k5ekw 3/11 - 15 - Bill, kg5fqx 3/18 - interference 3/25 - 18 - Clint, kf5ndf
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BVARC QUICK STATS

Date	Total Membership	Newsletters	Life Members
3/26/2019	183	175	68



Hamfests

(typically within 200 miles of Houston)

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

04/06/2019 | Ham EXPO Spring 2019

Location: Belton, TX
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Temple Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://TARC.org/hamexpo/>

06/07/2019 | West Gulf Division Convention (Ham-Com 2019)

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

07/13/2019 | Swapmeet

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

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.



Russian Military Spy Key

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 has resumed. It takes place typically on the Saturday before the 2nd Thursday of each month at 10:30 AM. Location: Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston, 77074. BEFORE GOING, please check the BVARC website for any changes.

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, see the BVARC website: www.bvarc.org

Other contacts include:

President:, Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, n5vcx@att.net

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

Newsletter Printing, Assembly and Mailing: Daphne Rawlinson, K5VQY, daphne_rawlinson@hotmail.com.

Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, k5cam@arrl.net ; Mike Teers, KG5SXG, miketrs@windstream.net

JP Pritchard, K5JPP, jppnews@comcast.net; Esther Pritchard, elop@comcast.net

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

VOLUME 43, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2019

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

**April 6 – BVARC Amateur Radio License Testing Session
April 11 – General Membership Meeting**