



# BVARC BEACON



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

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**DECEMBER 2019**

**VOLUME 43 ISSUE 12**

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## **BVARC DECEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Thursday, December 12th, 2017 7:30pm, at the Imperial Park Sugarland Recreation Center at 234 Matlage Way, Sugar Land TX, 77478 – It's right across the street from the Post Office

It's Homebrew Night at BVARC – bring your project(s) large or small. Describe to BVARC what it is, how it works, and does it work. You might also describe what new things you learned.

Daphne Rawlinson, K5VQY and Kelli Medbury, KQ5QJE, will provide wassail and cookies at the meeting.



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

Chili Night was very well attended, with some very tasteful entries! We had many pots of chili, with all the fixin's and a lot of deserts. Thanks to Daphne and Kelli for organizing the event and the solicitation for chili pots. Our discussions included the upcoming plans for the Greater Houston Hamfest as well as upcoming contests and holiday events. We also had officer elections! The results are posted below.



## **Results of the November Annual BVARC Elections**

President -- Mike Hardwick, N5VCX  
Recording Sec -- Jon Noxon, KF5TFJ  
Treasurer -- no candidates  
2 Year At Large -- Rick Hiller, W5RH  
1 Year at Large – JP Pritchard, K5JPP

Note: After elections, we had a volunteer to take the Treasurer's position. This must now be approved by the board or a special election.

## The Prez Says

As the year ends, everyone at BVARC should think back to the events of the year. We have had a lot of successes this year and this is what makes the club continue. From a successful Hamfest to an extremely successful Field Day. This year the mega club Field Day was first in 10A and #6 overall out of 3113 entries in the United States. A great job by everyone that helped at Field Day!

Even with the successes we still must look toward the future. The club still needs to bring in younger members to make the club survive. Without younger members, the club can end up where it was 20 years ago with only about 20 active members (the club had 85 members at that time but there were only 20 active ones). So, reach out in your neighborhoods, schools, churches and see who might be interested in becoming a ham. You might be surprised.

In November we lost one of those active members – Peter Sauerlich, KD5QPX. Pete was a member that worked tirelessly on helping the club and amateur radio. I will always remember him as someone that can always come up with a solution, even if it has 57 parts when only 3 are needed.

I want to thank Rick Hiller, W5RH, for overseeing the elections in November. The results of the BVARC elections are on page 1 of this newsletter. I want to thank those that volunteered to serve for the board of directors. They will start their terms in office on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

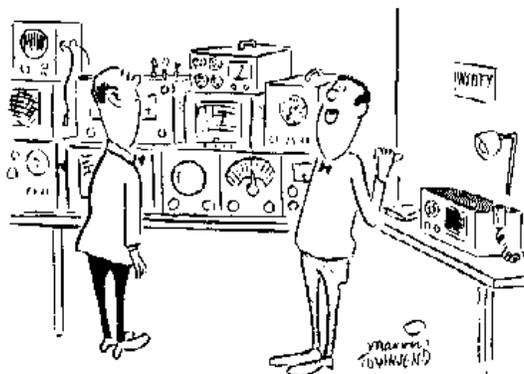
I want to thank Daphne and Kelli for a great job that they did on the chili supper. I think they have some great plans for the meetings in the future.

December is BVARC's home brew night. Jon Noxon will be coordinating the best of the homebuilt or kit equipment. So, let him know that you are bringing that 5-pound kilowatt amp!

The BVARC banquet is gearing up fast for Friday January 31st, 2019. If you have any questions, please contact me. There is more information in the newsletter on the banquet. And right around the corner is the Great Houston HamFest on March 7. If you are interested helping, please give me a call.

Hope to see everyone at the banquet.

73,  
N5VCX



"My transceiver is over here.  
That's just my testing equipment."

# "The Night Before Christmas", Ham Radio-style

Submitted by Mike Hardwick, N5VCX

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the town, The snowstorm was raging, the phone lines were down;  
The wind it did howl, the tree limbs did crack, I hope that St. Nick isn't forced to turn back. The wife making cookies, the  
kids making noise, While away in the shack, by my rig I was poised.

The finals were glowing, the mike gain was set, I was chasing DX to see what I could get. The bands were all empty, the  
frequencies clear, Except one lone station that sounded quite near. He was calling CQ and my interest did pique, When  
he ended transmission with the words, "Old St. Nick".

I answered back quickly, I used great dispatch, If this were St. Nicholas, good God, what a catch! We exchanged  
information, it was really quite graphic, Then he came back and said, "I've emergency traffic!"

His reindeer were tired, his elves in a grump, If he didn't land soon, then his sleigh he would dump. I thought very  
carefully, I thought very hard, Then I gave him directions to my snow covered yard. As he flew past my window, his hair  
like a mane, He reined in his chargers and called them by name: "Whoa, Anode! Whoa, Cathode! Whoa, Zener! Whoa,  
Diode! Stop, Heater! Stop, Grid leak! Stop, Bias! Stop, Triode!

You're flying too low! you're flying too fast! Look out, you dumb reindeer, his antenna mast!" So into the backyard the  
reindeer did drop, St. Nick, the elves, and the sleigh went kerplop! Then at the back door, I heard this loud knocking,

"Open up in there, or I won't fill your stocking!" As I turned off the light and was leaving the shack, Into the house Saint  
Nicholas came from the back-His two-meter rig held to his hip with a strap, "Hams do it in the shack" on the front of his  
cap.

The sack that he carried made his aged brow furrow, And he handed me a card that read, "QSL Via Bureau". His clothes  
were all sooty, from his shoes to his vest; I felt like a novice taking his test. His fingers were calloused and from what I  
could tell, This came from a straight key that I'll bet he used well.

I offered him coffee, I offered him smokes, I tried easing the tension by telling ham jokes. Then he nodded his head and  
raised up his thumb, He smiled like an Elmer, did I ever feel dumb.

He grabbed up his sack and went straight for the tree, and placed in it a large present for me. When he finished his work,  
he stood up, took a bow, Then out the back door to his team he did plow.

But I heard him exclaim as he flew o'er the land, "Beware the FCC, friend, we were both out of band!"

Merry Christmas from my house to yours!

# **The Radio Hotel** – All I want for Christmas.....

by Rick Hiller – W5RH

What do you want for Christmas? I want toys, but our toys are typically \$2500 and up. So, how about some low priced suggestions that will improve our understanding of the hobby? How about some antenna books? These are in the \$10 to \$50 range and are easily bought online. Suggest some antenna books to Santa, your spouse, or Mom and Dad. But, which ones? I thought you'd never ask. To our benefit, today's books come in multiple formats -- hardback, paperback, e-books and audible books. That said, I'll make a few suggestions.....

--**ARRL Antenna Handbook** – Any edition is good and certainly the one book to have. ARRL just released the 2019 24<sup>th</sup> edition, at about \$50 or the special 2019 Four volume separated edition is about \$70. Digital download version is included.

--**ARRL Antenna Compendiums – 1 thru 8** Very nice cookbook series of practical Ham antenna know how.

--**Cubical Quad Antennas and The Beam Antenna Handbook** – Bill Orr and Stuart Cowan

--**Reflections** (any edition 1 thru 4) – M. Walter Maxwell

--**The Care and Feeding of Transmission Lines** – Joel Hallas

--**ARRL Guide to Antenna Tuners** – Joel Hallas

--**Low Band DX'ing** (edition 2 thru 4) – John Devoldere More of an antenna book than a DX book, but DXing on the Low Bands is pretty much about antennas used.

--**Building Baluns and Transformers** – Jerry Sevick

--**Grounding and Bonding** – Ward Silver

--**Propagation and Radio Science** – Eric Nichols

But, my favorite antenna book is – **Transmission Lines, Antennas and Wave Guides** – King, Mimno and Wing – 1945 Written for the US Army by some of the day's well known experts.

Of course, there are many other books, so don't limit your gift requests to just the above titles. Stretch out to **Antenna Physics** by Robert Zavrel, or the reference/text books by **Terman** or **Krause** or **Jasik**, but beware that, with these, the math starts on page 2.

Most books can be bought easily on-line, but certain out of date books are only available on the used market. E-Ham and other classified ad sites will occasionally have a book come up. Look often and respond quickly. My favorite online tool is Biblio [www.biblio.com](http://www.biblio.com). It is a fantastic clearing house of many small book stores around the country and some overseas.

Merry Christmas, happy reading and Happy New Year.

Enjoy your hobby.....73...Rick – W5RH

**Next Time** in January 2020 – A reprint inspired by Pete, KD5QPX, SK

# 2019 BVARC Awards Banquet

Submitted by Mike Hardwick, N5VCX

The BVARC Awards banquet will be held on January 31, 2020 at the Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet Street, Houston 77074 between 6:30 pm and 9:00 pm. The banquet will have a meet and greet time from 6:30 pm with dinner being served at 7:15pm.



Cost for the banquet for members and one guest will be \$35 per person. Non-members or a second guest will be \$50 per person. Tickets are available at the BVARC.org PayPal link. Alcoholic beverages are to the individual's tab. The menu is being finalized and will be put on the web site for selection when you purchase your tickets.

The banquet is to present awards to the club members that have shown outstanding service to the club and to amateur radio. The awards that will be presented are:

The Loop and Zepp – The promotion of HF radio

The Dr. Bill Award – For Outstanding Service in Amateur Radio Testing

The Order of the Key – For outstanding in promoting amateur radio

If you have someone that you would like to nominate for an award, please let someone on the board of directors know. Let's give those who promote various aspects of the hobby the recognition they deserve.

Hope you see everyone at the banquet.



## BVARC Monday Night Public Service Net Updates

Don't forget the BVARC Monday Night Net starts at **8 pm** on 146.94 (167.9). The order of check-ins starts with mobile units first then fixed stations. If you have something for the net, make sure you let Net Control know about it when you check in. We are looking for Net Control Operators. Contact Rick, w5rh, if you are interested. Here are recent check-ins with control-ops:

9/2 - 13 - Dave, k5ekw 9/9 - 18 - Richard, kg5ycu 9/16 - 22 - Dave, k5ekw 9/23 - 20 - Clint, kf5hdf	9/30 - 27 - Dave, k5ekw 10/7 - 20 - Dave, k5ekw 10/14 - 25 Richard, kg5ycu 10/21 - 21 - Richard, kg5ycu	10/28 - 19 - Clint, kf5hdf 11/18 - 16 - Dave, k5ekw
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### BVARC QUICK STATS

Date	Total Membeship	Newsletters	Life Members
11/25/2019	196	196	71

## Why Do I Keep Losing My Ham Friends? (and...A Tribute to Pete KD5QPX)

I got back into ham radio in 1985. I was mid-30's and the hams I became friends with were 50 and 60'ish years old. As I got older, so did they. I gravitated toward the older hams because they had been active in an era that I had stumbled into as a teenager. I was comfortable in that era's equipment and technology. I was also very interested in antennas and wanted to know more. These older Hams had been around. They had knowledge and were quite willing to share in my excitement of learning.

But then they started disappearing. One by one. I was going to funeral after funeral to express my admiration and love for these Silent Keys. Also, for quite a few, I was the post-passing clearing house of their ham radio gear. I didn't mind doing it as it was a service to their families, but it bothered the heck out of me. I had lost friends that were lunch buddies, business owners, world-class geophysicists, WWII vets and on-the-air friends. All were great hams and all had a keen interest in what I was doing with antennas. They all had provided key information and help in my quest for understanding.

Among those friends are **Mack Arp, W5EET; Irv Block, NZ5V; Mel Thatcher, KB5ION; Charlie Frost, K5LBU; Bill Hickox, K5BDZ; Lou Kronberg, W5IHV; Dave Barber, K5NDB; Bill Pearson, W5RJP; Joe Sanders, WA5VRB;** and now, **Pete Sauermilch** on November 9, 2019.

**Pete Sauermilch, KD5QPX SK\***, one of the few people that appreciated and understood my amateur radio curiosity and particular area of interest in amateur radio -- antennas and transmission lines. Pete was a member of BVARC for many years, handling Recording Secretary duties and also playing a crucial core role in the annual Greater Houston Ham Fest. The flea market and traffic flow would not have been as great as they were had Pete not applied his yearly magic. Two other major ham radio activities come to mind when thinking of Pete: The Texas QSO Party and small antennas. Pete was a major mobile player in the TQP for quite a few years, pairing up with KK2Z and me on alternate years. Driving thru over 35 counties most years and amassing well over 30K in points (phone). Also, small antennas were a major focus for Pete due to his particular location in Sugar Land. His back yard backed up to a power line easement for 110K+ volt lines. He had to fit the antennas in his backyard and on his roof, up to 15 feet high at most, due to HOA rules. Speaking of HOA rules, Pete was an active and informed contributor to the congressional discussion of HOA and ham radio antenna allowances. He had been on the local HOA board and knew how they ran. More pictures of Pete and ham friends below:



Pg 2.

## Why Do I Keep Losing My Ham Friends? (And...A Tribute to Pete KD5QPX)

The above SK's were all true ham radio friends. They provided me with camaraderie that I truly cherished; maybe not realizing it at the time of our one on ones, but certainly after they were gone. I can easily tell you what each provided and how they helped me. It was a joy, it was fun, it was ham radio at its' finest. You see, ham radio is my favorite thing to do in this world besides being a Father, and now, a grandfather. My wife always knew where I was, if I was not at home or at work. I was helping or visiting with one of my ham friends, typically one of the above listed SK's. And now they all are gone.

What can you and I take from this memorial to my ham friends? Just a bit of philosophical thought. Getting older by the day, makes it most important that we cherish the friends we have and try to befriend additional hams that have the same passions for this hobby as we do.

They say that you are the 5 closest people to you. I'll apply a bit of poetic license and change that to "I'll strive to honor the 5 closest Hams to me". I pray that I can live up to the challenge.

All that said, rest in peace, Pete. You will be missed by many, my friend. 73....Rick – W5RH

\*Lunch time discussions with Pete were the inspiration for many Radio Hotel columns in the BVARC newsletter. One in particular, from June of 2016, will be reprinted in the January 2020 Edition of the Beacon.



## November VE - FCC TESTING SESSION RESULTS

For the Saturday's November 9th test session: We had 2 candidates.

### New Licensees:

Patel, D. (Technician)

### Upgrades

KI5GKU (Extra)

Congratulations to all!

A great thank you to the VEs in attendance – K5LJ, K5GOL and N5DTT. Also, a thank you to Franz Lagerman (k3FL) for spearheading the session in my absence.

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

Details for candidates are found at [www.bvarc.org/home/amateur-license/](http://www.bvarc.org/home/amateur-license/)

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

# A Newby's Abridged Guide to Antenna Decision Making

By JP Pritchard, K5JPP

A new ham ready to grow into High Frequency (HF) operations will be flooded with information. For me, decision making initially focused on choosing the right transceiver. It was a mental process focused on budget, range of operation, product ratings found in eHam.net, QST and YouTube videos created by hams. Oh yes, also driven by tempting advertising from the various manufacturers.

But as Rick W5RH points out, many hams have worked the world, all 50 states, all continents, DXCC, 5 band DXCC, and other QSO achievements with mediocre transceivers. What they all had in common is effective antennas, and in many cases, nothing more than a simple wire antenna of some kind. Basic Truth: Antennas really are way more important than the radio you're using.

Lessons learned. If I had it to do over again, I would focus first on my antenna choice. Make that, my initial antenna choice. It doesn't have to be your ultimate choice. There are lots of "perfect" solutions that you can try out over the course of your amateur radio experience. And some aren't so perfect. My first antenna was an utter failure.

We won't be making any technical recommendations or explanations here. What I will suggest is a way deciding on your first antenna (or your second or fiftieth antenna).

Let's start with your available space. If you live in a house, are there trees on your property? How big is your lot and are there power lines at the edge of your lot? Is there a fence?

With a wire antenna, whether it's a simple dipole, an end fed, an off center fed, etc., the size of your lot will likely determine what HF bands are available to you. It usually takes more than a postage stamp-sized lot for an 80-meter antenna. But that's okay. There's plenty of HF activity on 40 or 20-meters and if you have some space and trees or other structures to legally support the ends of the wire, you may be good. It's important to attach to structures that are fairly high. Twenty feet might be okay, but 30 or more would be better. Tools of the trade like sling shots and potato guns can help you get your antenna up to an acceptable height.

One of the many beauties of a wire antenna is its low cost, whether you'll buy one that's ready made or one you make yourself. As Rick W5RH points out in his Radio Hotel article in this very issue of the BVARC Beacon, there's a new ARRL wire antenna book available, "HF Dipole Antennas for Amateur Radio." It looks to be a great resource at twenty bucks, or less if you opt for the Kindle version.

Beyond wire antennas, you might also opt for a vertical or a tower with and big beautiful beam. But most of the old salts in this hobby would suggest you wait on those purchases, if they're in your price and property range, until you've gained more experience.

Here's a key question. Do you live under the umbrella of a homeowner's association that bans antennas? It's not the end of your ham world, but it is limiting and it's going to require some imagination to get your signal into the ethers. Same goes for apartment dwellers.

The answer to the challenge may very well be a stealth antenna. There's a never-ending supply of suggestions and techniques available on YouTube and in a variety of books. They include magnetic loops, tuned wire loops, small verticals, zig-zag loaded dipoles and yes, hidden wire antennas. Trees and shrubs are also a big help in the stealth department.

Whatever your choices, always keep in mind that your amateur radio friends and fellow club members are there to help -- hams helping hams: Helping others is the most important duty any of us faces, so don't hesitate to ask for help. It's one of several great reasons to join a ham radio club, and then attend meetings, join in for breakfast or lunch gatherings and, even if you don't have much knowledge to share, offer to help with the grunt work when another ham is looking for a hand. As Rick W5RH points out, "amateur radio is not a destination, but rather a journey where you'll meet people who might just turn out to be lifelong friends."

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and 73, JP Pritchard, K5JPP

**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club**

November 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)  
Jeff Greer W5JEF (Cor. Secretary)

Michael Monsour AC0TX (Director 2Yr)  
Scott Medbury KD5FBA (Director 2 yr)

Recorded by Jon Noxon, KF5TFJ Recording Secretary

- 1) Call to Order: The Vice President called the meeting to order at 9:14.
- 2) Establishment of Quorum: A business quorum was established. (Five of eight officers and board members present.
- 3) Approval of Agenda: The Agenda was approved
- 4) Club President's Opening Statement: The President thanked those present for attending the meeting.
- 5) Emergency Business: None
- 6) Approval of Minutes from Previous BOD Meeting: The Board approved the minutes for the October 2019 BoD meeting. Request by president that minutes be sent to himself and Eddie Runner
- 7) Approval of Treasurer's Report: The Board deferred approval of the Treasurer's Report,
- 8) Corresponding Secretary: (verbal report) Membership renewal received via mail. QSL cards continue to be received. Membership check received.
- 9) Old Business:  
  
General Membership Meetings scheduled as follows, with topics not listed to be determined:  
November 14, 2019 - Chili Supper and club elections. Kelli and Daphne on point to coordinate.  
December 12, 2019 - Home Brew/Makers Night. Kf5tfj to host.  
  
Discussion regarding the January Club Awards Banquet. Speaker to be selected. Corresponding Sec. will attempt to recruit Forrest Mimms to speak.  
  
Status of donations to Stewart (A/C and electrical improvements). Emphasis needed to get Cavalla antennas working. Mobilization party to be determined.  
  
Topics suggested for future meetings:  
Raspberry Pi and Linux programming.  
SDR radio receivers.  
Antenna modeling.  
DMR "Hot spots"
- 10) New Business:  
For GHHF, will share FBC Fair Grounds with Innovation-Spark (the term "Maker's Faire" cannot be used due to legal problems. Event tentatively called **Greater Houston Ham Fest and I-Spark Convention**. Coordination is ongoing with Mike Hardwick taking the lead. Dates are March 6 & 7 2020.  
Review of club by laws to be initiated. (Noxon on lead)
- 11) Cost Saving Measures:  
Status Continue looking into this on an on-going item.; Storage Locker is the one remaining major expenses. Banquet costs will be reduced with selection of Sharon Moore to cater the banquet. Suggestion to reduce Beacon issue to bi-monthly discouraged by the President.
- 12) Next BOD meeting date: Nov. 9 2019  
Future BoD dates: Dec 7 2019 (Possible conflict with Pearl Harbor Event @ Stewart, if we do it)
- 13) Comments:
- 14) Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:41 am

## **HARC**

### **Houston Amateur Radio Club – The Beginning**

On December 5, 1919, something special happened in Houston – the Houston Amateur Radio Club was started. Over the next 70 years the club grew to one of the largest in the state. At one point there were over 600 members in the club that had activity basically every night at their own “club house”. HARC was a place where basically all Houston hams started in one form or another. There was one “unique” member in the club that was there from the beginning. The information below is from [globalwirelessindustry.com](http://globalwirelessindustry.com).

#### **Call Sign 5CY – Howard Hughes**



Many have admired one of the legends of America, Howard Hughes. Movie maker, aviator, industrialist, a real performance guy driven by testosterone and the quest to be the best. Many have claimed that Hughes "was" the leading edge of technology.

Hughes was a Ham operator long before he got into movies or aviation. He was interested in electricity and built radio sets as a 12-year-old youth in Houston. Howard's room was on the second floor, facing north. There he assembled his shortwave radio equipment and using his new call sign 5CY in 1919 (changed later to W5CY), spent hours flashing messages to amateur operators all over the country and to ships at sea.

With fellow radio enthusiasts, he formed the Radio Relay League, a local organization of young amateurs like himself. Since Howard had the latest equipment, the boys usually met in his room.

So, when you think about ham radio in Houston, remember that it had one of the most unusual men in the world help start the club. So, this month help celebrate the 100-year-old anniversary of a once great ham radio club. The club, with call sign W5DPA, is still registered with the ARRL and is being maintained until the time is right to bring it back into in a new and more dynamic organization.

## BVARC Rag Chew Net

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

10/30/19, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, W5TOM, W5VOM, AA5OA (Fort Smith, AR), WW5PA, K5LJ, WB4KTF (Austin), WIBG (Katy). (9 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 69, SN = 0, A = 10, K = 3 / Band Rpt: Fair

10/02/19, W5TKZ (NCS), K5LKJ (T), W1BG (Katy), WA5CYI, K5JPP, K5LJ, W5VOM (T), WW5PA (T), KA5LYL (Corpus Christi), N5EKW (Katy), K2MPP, W5RH, WA5ANF (T), KL7AX. (14 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 69, SN = 0, A = 2, K = 1 / Band Rpt: Fair

11/13/19, K5LKJ (NCS), K2MPP, K5LJ, W5TKZ, W5VOM, WW5PA

(6 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 71, SN = 0, A = 3, K = 1 / Band Rpt: Poor

11/20/19, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TOM, W5TKZ, K5JPP, K2MPP, K5LJ, KG5SXG, AA5OA (Fort Smith, AR), KL7AX, KN5GRK (Lafayette, LA), W5RH, WA5ANF (T), KD5CDM. (13) Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 70, SN = 0, A = 4, K = 0 / Band Rpt: Good

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

Net conditions have been fair to good this month. Tune up and tune in to learn what others are doing and share in the experiences. Come join in the conversation each Wednesday evening. Regards.  
John K5LKJ



## Hamfests

(typically within 200 miles of Houston)

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

### **01/10/2020 | Radio Fiesta 2020**

**Location:** Schertz, TX

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** San Antonio Radio Club

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

### **02/21/2020 | Orange Hamfest 2020**

**Location:** Orange, TX

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Orange ARC, Jefferson Co. ARC, Beaumont ARC

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

### **03/06/2020 | Greater Houston HamFest**

**Location:** Rosenberg, TX

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

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



# 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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Imperial Park Sugarland Recreation Center at 234 Matlage Way, Sugar Land TX, 77478. Check the above website for any possible changes.

**BVARC** amateur radio testing has resumed. It takes place typically on the Saturday before the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](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)

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JP Pritchard, K5JPP, [jppnews@comcast.net](mailto:jppnews@comcast.net); Esther Pritchard, [elop@comcast.net](mailto:elop@comcast.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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DECEMBER 2019

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

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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

**November 12, BVARC General Membership Meeting**



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