



BVARC BEACON



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

MARCH 2020

VOLUME 44 ISSUE 3

The Prez Says

The Greater Houston HamFest is next week and everyone on the planning committee is working around the clock to organize another great event. There are still a ton of things that need to be done to make the March 6th and 7th hamfest successful. If you are not aware, set-up day will be on Friday the 6th and the HamFest will be on Saturday the 7th. We will have many activities again this year including two balloon launches and lots of exhibitors from Innovation Spark (formerly Makers Faire). We are expecting one of the largest crowds every for the Greater Houston HamFest this year so make sure you come out and enjoy the fun!

To make the event a success, we need volunteers, lots of volunteers. If you are interested in helping, sign-up on the Greater Houston HamFest web site. Keep checking your e-mail and the hamfest web site for more information. Also coming up is the Texas MS150 Bike Ride on May 2nd and 3rd. Volunteers are always needed for this event. If you are interested, please check www.bpms150hams.org web site for more information. There will be two information/training session so check the web site. For the event we need volunteers both on the course and at the Houston Command Post. You will be able to sign up on the web site to help. Come on out and put your radio and license to a good use.

Mark Janzer, K5MGJ, is working hard for Museum Ships Weekend on June 6th in Galveston. Mark said a work party is around the corner so keep your eye on the BVARC web site and reflector for more information. Mark has worked hard on getting things ready MSWE. Interest is high again this year since we will return to the USS Stewart to operate. If you would like to help for MSWE, let Mark know. I know we will be up and ready for the event in June. Thanks again Mark for your hard work.

Field Day is just around the corner and now is the time to start getting prepared for the June 27th and 28th. Things are still be confirmed on the number of clubs and schedule so keep your eye on the next newsletter. We will have some of the originals back helping such as Daphne and Kelly for the great food spread and Bill Cordell, W5VOM, for the Master of Radio Energy distribution. If you would like to help, contact anyone on the board let them know. Don't be bashful, step up and volunteer for the great club event.

The March meeting will have our one and only Jeff Greer, W5JEF, provide us the whens and hows on that wonderful computing device known as Raspberry Pi. Jeff will tell us how to take a Raspberry Pi Nano and turn it into a 1000 watt transceiver that is better than an Icom IC-7610 (just joking!) Check in the newsletter for more information. The April meeting will have a Skype presentation on Clandestine radios. We had planned to have it last month, but scheduling problems prevented us from having it. Check in the newsletter next month for more information. Hope to see everyone at the March meeting and the 2020 Greater Houston HamFest.

73,

N5VCX

BVARC MARCH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our general membership meeting in March will include a presentation on the Raspberry Pi, a credit-card sized computer. Please send any questions/subtopics that you would like to see addressed in that presentation to Jeff at W5JEF@outlook.com.



The Greater Houston HamFest & Innovation Spark
Present
ARRL TEXAS STATE CONVENTION
March 7th, 2020





Talk-in
146.940
167.5

Admission: On-line \$8 At the Door \$12 Children Under 12 Free!
Scouts, Military and First Responders in Uniform - Free!

8' Tables \$25 each 10' x 10' Booth \$50 Free Electricity
Free Tailgating!

DAVINCI
MAKER X LEGS

Balloon Launches

Friday, March 6th, 2020
Table Set-up 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm
NEW FOR FRIDAY EVENING SPAGHETTI DINNER 6 - 8 PM
\$15 PER PERSON TICKETS ON-LINE

Saturday, March 7th, 2020

Ham Radio License Testing!

Ham Radio Technician Class! (must pre-register)

Programs 7:00 am to 3:30 pm Sales 8:00 am to 2:00 pm Grand Prize Raffle 2:00 pm
DMR 101 Code Plug Writing Classes 9am, 11 am, 1pm
Testing 9:00 am, 11 am Tailgate 6:00 am to 3:30 pm

RV Parking Available

Fox Hunt!

PROGRAMS AND SPEAKERS

Guest Speaker - Forrest Mims III - Author of Radio Shack's "Engineers Mini-Notebook" Series

ARRL FORUM - JOHN STRATTON, N9AUS, WEST GULF DIVISION DIRECTOR PAUL GILBERT, KE2ZW, SOUTH TEXAS 1M
ARES District 14 Meeting - Jeff Walter, KE5FGA Balloon Program & Launch - Andy MacAllister, WSACM
SMD Soldering - Donovan Ball, KG5BDZ Amateur Radio and Grounding - ABR Industries

CONVENTION PRIZE	GRAND PRIZE	DMR Prize
RIG EXPERT AA-800 ANALYZER	Icom IC-7300	ANYTONE AT-D578UV III PRO

Emergency Vehicles







Raffle Ticketes \$2 each Drawing 2 pm - Raffle Tickets Purchased on Site
Door Prizes every half hour starting at 9:00 am!

Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 4310 Texas-36 Rosenberg, TX 77471

29°31'12" N  www.HoustonHamfest.org 
96°48'38" W The Greater Houston HamFest is sponsored by the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club 2020 flyer ver 4.2

February 2020 VE - FCC TESTING SESSION RESULTS

As this issue of the BEACON goes to press, this article is not available. Look to see a combined article for two months in next month's issue.

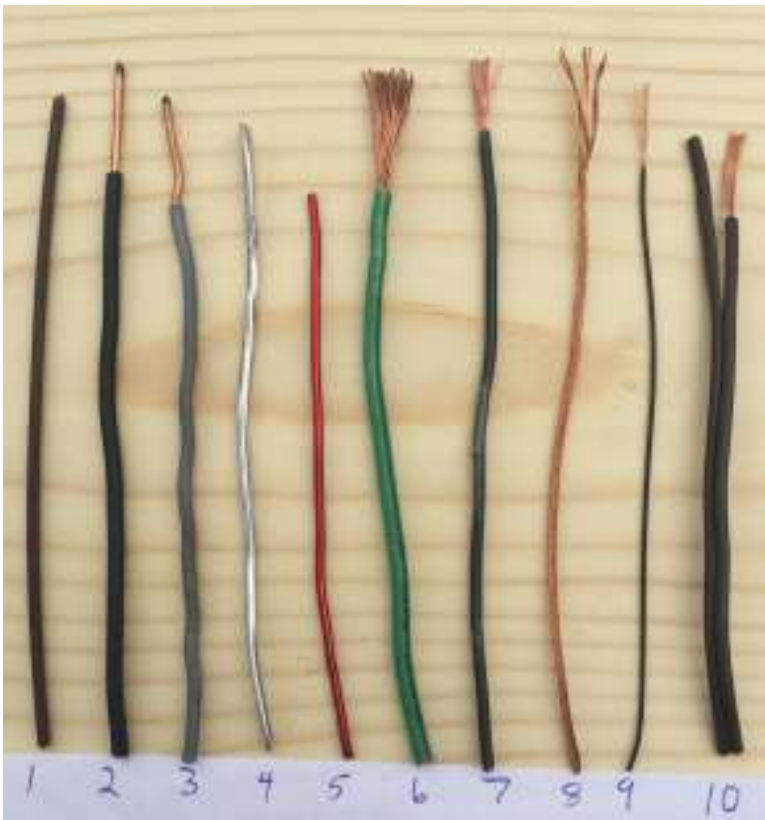
The Radio Hotel Wire – Simply Wire

by Rick Hiller W5RH

When it comes to stringing a wire antenna, there are a few factors that you need to consider. Length of the antenna, how it is hung/supported, how and where it is fed and how much power you are going to put thru it.

Wire comes in all different flavors (see the picture).....solid, stranded, insulated, uninsulated (bare), enameled, various colors and types of insulations and size, or gauge, as they say in the electrical world. There is no “typical” for comparison. Each has a benefit and must be described on its’ own.

As a teenager Ham we used the bare, stranded, copper “antenna” wire – 7 strands. See #8. This was really springy when trying to lay it out and once you got it up it would kink and over a short period of time it would oxidize and get noisy. Now they have “relaxed” versions of this wire, which is so much better for handling.



Remember that DC resistance increases as wire gauge number gets larger (diameter gets smaller). RF resistance also increases or decreases like the DC Resistance. The “area” of the wire’s outer surface is where RF flows (skin effect) and the more “area” the less resistance.

For handling, I was really impressed with K5HM’s Alpha Delta DX-EE antenna “wire”. It was #12 insulated, solid (see #3) . A well built antenna. The wire remained stiff and was easy to deploy.

DX Engineering and The Wireman are two good places to get wire. ABR, our local coax manufacturer also has antenna wire. Your local DIY store has wire too. For example, I have used 14-1 solid house wiring (see #2) and stripped out

the 2 insulated conductors (black and white) and the uninsulated ground wire – solid copper. Not a bad haul 3 wires for the price they want. Slice the insulation right down the middle and then pull it apart.

I have some heavy, bronze antenna wire in my garage (see #1). You could run a long wire on a battleship with it. Other wires shown in the picture above: 4- #12 Aluminum; 5-#12 Enameled/Magnet wire; 6 and 7- #10 Stranded with plastic coating (non-UV); 9- #22 “Stealth” Antenna wire(15 strands of #36); 10- #16 lamp cord. My personal recommendation is to run insulated wire of the appropriate gauge. This keeps the copper nice and clean and if it is stranded, avoids noise generated between dirty adjacent wires.

If you’d like to read more on wire, go to the BVARC newsletter, November 2016 and read **The Radio Hotel** column “The Skinny on Wire”. <http://www.bvarc.org/newsletter/201611.pdf> on page 8. Also, read two Rudy Severns (N6LF) articles about wire: Google “Antenna Foil Conductors” and “HF Wire Conductors”. 73, Rick W5RH

Next Time: A Little April Fool’s Antenna Lore

Where in the World is . . .

Uganda (5X)

CQ Zone 36 IT Zone 48

Uganda, Officially the Republic of Uganda is a landlocked country in East Africa. It is geographically a beautiful nation with snow-capped mountains and immense Lake Victoria. Its abundant wildlife includes chimpanzees as well as rare birds. *Remote Bwindi Impenetrable National Park* is a renowned mountain gorilla sanctuary. *Murchison Falls National Park* in the northwest is known for its 141-foot-tall waterfall and wildlife such as hippos.



Uganda is a Sub-Saharan African country with one of the highest rates of poverty, the country remains among the poorest in the world. The number of Ugandans living below the poverty line is currently about one in five.

The most remembered character in Ugandan history is probably Idi Amin. He enlisted in the Kings African Rifles as a cook in the British Colonial Army. He rose to the rank of Major and was appointed Commander of the Army after Uganda's independence. He became aware that the nation's president was planning to arrest him for misappropriating army funds, so he promptly launched a military coup and declared himself President.



Figure 1 Idi Amin

Amin was president from 1971 to 1979. His eight-year regime was one of the most brutal in recent history. Amin ruled directly, shunning the delegation of power. He was noted for his abrupt changes of mood, from buffoonery to shrewdness, from gentleness to tyranny. He was often extreme in his nationalism. He expelled all Asians from Uganda in 1972, an action that led to the breakdown of Uganda's economy, and he publicly insulted Great Britain and the United States as well as numerous world leaders. A Muslim, he reversed Uganda's amicable relations with Israel and befriended Libya and the Palestinians; in July 1976 he was personally involved in the hijacking of a French airliner to Entebbe. Amin came to be known as the "Butcher of

Uganda" for his brutality, and it is believed that some 300,000 people were killed, and countless others tortured during his presidency. Naming himself President for Life, his full title was "*His Excellency, President for*

Life, Field Marshal Al Hadji Doctor Idi Amin Dada, VC, DSO, MC, Lord of All the Beasts of the Earth and Fishes of the Seas and Conqueror of the British Empire in Africa in General and Uganda in Particular". He never received the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) or the Military Cross (MC). He conferred a [doctorate of law](#) on himself from Makerere University as well as the Victorious Cross (VC), a medal made to emulate the British [Victoria Cross](#).



The Ugandan Shilling is the national currency. A US dollar is worth about 2,700 Ugandan Shillings. Transparency International has rated Uganda's public sector as one of the most corrupt in the world. In 2016, Uganda ranked 151st worst out of 176 and had a score of 25 on a scale from 0 (perceived as most corrupt) to 100 (perceived as clean). According to the United States Department of State's 2012 Human Rights Report on Uganda, "The World Bank's most recent Worldwide Governance Indicators reflected corruption was a severe problem" and that "the country annually loses 768.9 billion shillings (\$286 million) to corruption."

According to QRZ, there are 78 callsigns licensed; with about 10% being licensed to foreign licensed holders. According to DX News, M0KRI is due to activate 5X1RI will be active in Uganda for two weekends in July – Mid August 2020.

Reporting from the Dark Side,

Ron, K5HM



Cutting Through the Static – A Column for Newbies

JP Pritchard, K5JPP

The Refined Hamshack

The revamping of my Ham desk is complete, but always a work in progress. I wasn't sure I'd get it done in time for this edition of the Beacon, but voila! It's up and running. As with all big projects however, completion comes in stages. I refer to my shack as my "ham cave," as it is also my space for everything from business to audio work, and eventually electronic project building.

I realized at the outset that the room itself needed to be easier to work in, so I started by replacing the carpet with laminate flooring. This allows me to get rid of the plastic floor mat that was always made moving my chair around a source of frustration. It also makes it easier to roll the desk away from the wall in order to access the wiring at the back, which was actually one of my most important goals.

Next step, installing casters on my desk. It now rolls with ease from operating to maintenance.

Rick, W5RH, stepped in at this point to building the desktop shelf that would support computer monitors and other gear. A big thank you to you, Rick!

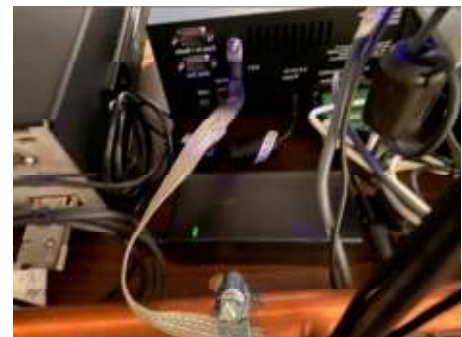
Next up, mounting a tray to support wires and a copper ground pipe, both on the back edge of the desk. The shelf came next, securing it in place on the desk with a couple of L brackets. That done, I added the gear, moving items around until I was sure everything was where it should be.



I ended up with power supplies at one end...

...and my Ameritron ALS- at the other.

And that brought me to connections.



606

(photos are best viewed in color at <http://www.bvarc.org/newsletters.php> by opening the March 2020 Beacon)

The trick was making it all come together in an orderly way, a tricky challenge given that usb, cat-6, video, power cables all come in varying lengths with factory-installed connectors. In some cases, I gathered portions of the cables, securing the coils with wire ties beneath the wiring tray. That done, each layer of connecting cables remain accessible, but held securely in place.

Next, I connected grounding mesh from the ground lug on each piece of gear to the grounded copper pipe running parallel to edge of the table. I connected the mesh to the pipe using hose clamps, applying a dab of NoAlox anti-oxidation goo between the mesh and the pipe.

All things put together and carefully checked, I fired it all up. And as they say at James Coney Island at delivery of the product, "HOTDOG!" It all worked from moment one, and the RF that had been causing problems with my computers was gone, thanks to attention paid to proper grounding.



To be sure, grounding is a whole other subject and you'll find as many arguments for proper grounding as there are hams. My goal was to follow good practice as I understand it. My system isn't perfect, but it has eliminated the RFI problems I was having in the shack.

And finally, the finished desk -- it is functional, it achieves the goals I set out for it and, though "unfancy," it looks attractive to me. And I arrived at that observation in the light of day, not under the influence at some wayward nightspot at 2 a.m. It's been a fun project.

Thanks for playing along.



JP, 73, K5JPP



MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting

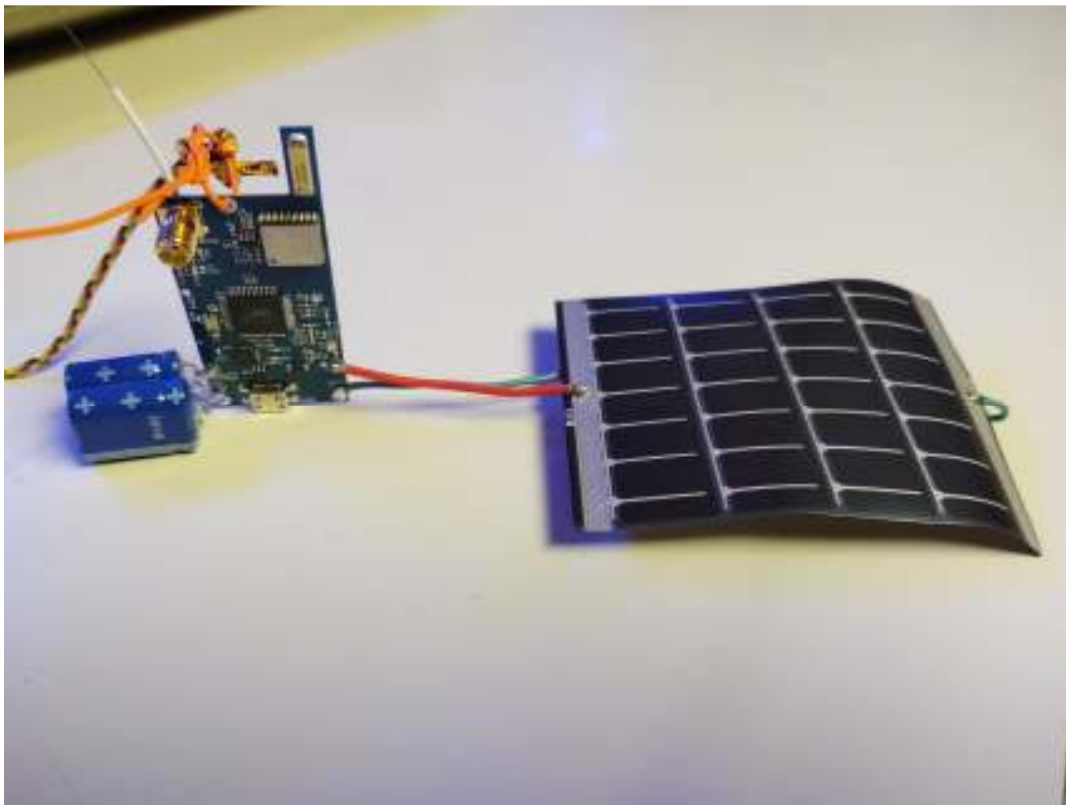
As this issue of the BEACON goes to press, this article is not available. Look to see a combined article for two months in next month's issue.

To The Edge of Space From the GHHF 2020!

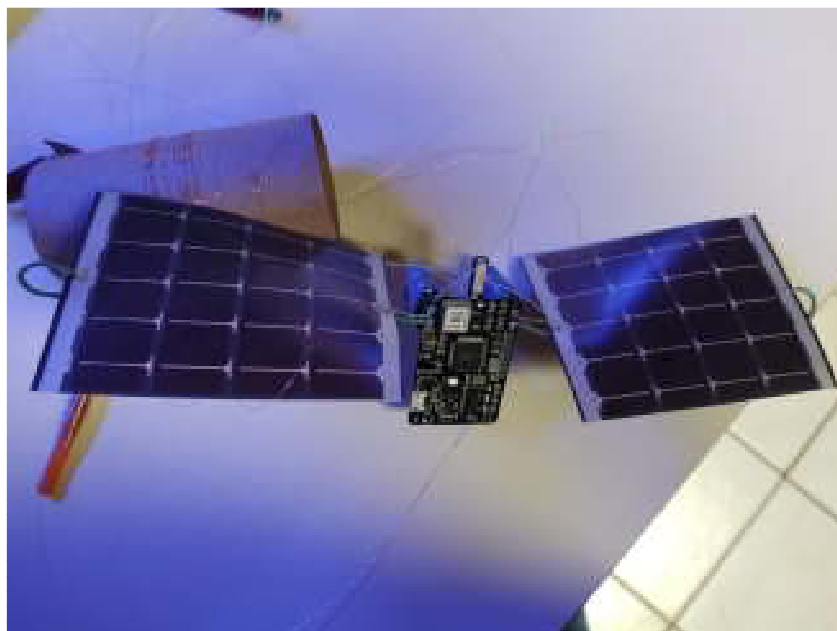
Andy MacAllister W5ACM

An ongoing effort of the South Texas Balloon Launch Team (BLT) has been to experiment with ultra-small and ultra-light-weight Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) units with “floater” balloons. This began several years ago with custom two-meter transmitters developed by Thomas KT5TK. We have continued this with new versions, from within the BLT, or purchased from ham-radio enthusiasts that now sell complete payloads, including solar panels for power. Two of the newest available will be flown at the Greater Houston Ham Fest (GHHF) on March 7, 2020, shortly after 9 AM.

The first is the PicoAprs-Lite developed by DB1NTO. Bare weight is 7.2 grams. We will add solar power and multi-Farad ultra capacitors. In addition to Global Positioning System (GPS) location information on 144.390 MHz FM, running 0.5 W output, it also has pressure and temperature data. It will be launched on a 36-inch Mylar party balloon with just enough helium to get off the ground, and hopefully achieve a floating altitude near 20,000 feet. It will identify as BLT-56 with the call sign K5WH-13. It can be tracked directly via 144.390 MHz or via the web at <https://aprs.fi> . You can see the solar cells and ultra capacitors in the BLT-56 photo.



The second APRS floater is a LiteAPRS-W from QRP Labs and may run as much as 1 Watt on 144.390 MHz, weighs 9 grams, but also will be on the standard 20 Meter WSPR (Weak Signal Propagation Reporter) running 10 mW. It will use the same 36-inch Mylar party balloon as BLT-56, but will identify as BLT-57 with the call sign K5WH-11. See the solar cells and payload in the BLT-57 photo. In addition to tracking via 144.390 MHz FM and <https://aprs.fi> , the WSPR can be heard directly or via resources like WSPRnet <http://wsprnet.org> . We are investigating the possibility of having a WSPR receive system at the BLT tables in the main hall.



Shortly after the balloon launches at last year's GHHF, Mike N5VCX suggested that we look into the possibility of flying live television on a high-altitude balloon for 2020. After some studies of light-weight transmitters and cameras, Tom K5SAF came up with a camera from Kirk KK2Z that could be connected to an FM TV transmitter on 910 MHz running 700 mW. Power comes from eight Energizer Ultimate Lithium AA cells. They provide up to 3 Amp Hours of current down to -40 degrees F. The best transmit antenna for the job is a horizontally-polarized, omni-directional "little wheel". Check the photo showing the WA5VJB antenna, ATV Transmitter and camera. For ground reception, a multi-element Yagi with FM receiver and preamp is used. At least one large monitor will be at the BLT tables to watch the live video. Ed N5EM did extensive antenna tests for both uplink and downlink antenna options.



The payloads and balloons will be prepped and flown after the 8 to 9 AM Balloon presentation by Andy W5ACM. Don't miss the GHHF balloon flights to the Edge of Space!

What is DMR – Part 1.5 or DMR Tidbits

After last month's presentation about DMR, most of you left with more questions that you came in with. So, to try and clear a up a few things, I will do short articles on DMR to try and make things more understandable. I know it is a strange concept, but it eventually gets easier.

The advantages of DMR:

So why go to all this trouble, when plain old analogue FM works perfectly well? DMR has the advantage that it four times more efficient when it comes to spectrum usage. For one 25 kHz analogue FM channel, you could fit four DMR transmissions. Not only that, but DMR offers some very flexible calling facilities - you can call one person, a group of people, or everyone in your fleet at once. While not every DMR network supports it, sending of data and short messages is also possible. DMR is also designed to be easy to network, with connections using IP, so creating wide coverage areas using a network of DMR repeaters is already built-in; cover your city or cover the entire country! Yet another advantage is because a DMR transmitter is only turned on about half the time due to it transmitting in bursts, battery life is longer.

Some DMR Jargon:

Color codes: Every DMR transmission uses a "color code" which is very similar to CTCSS or PL tones in the analogue radio world. On a repeater or simplex frequency, every radio must use the same color code to be able to communicate together. The main use for color codes is for where two repeater coverage areas on the same frequency may overlap, different color codes are used to ensure each radio accesses the correct repeater.

Timeslot: For Tier 2 and 3 systems, a timeslot is a slice of time, about 30ms long, that a radio can transmit in, or receive in. There are two timeslots per frequency, and you need to have your radio configured for the right color code for the repeater, the correct timeslot and correct talk-group for you to be able to hear anything.

Zones: This is simply a collection of channels & talk-groups, all grouped together in one "zone" or bank. A radio user can switch zones to access a different lot of channels & talk-groups that they may wish to use. Typically a zones are divided into repeaters for different areas, so you might have one zone for the west side of a city, and another covering the east side of the city - but there's nothing to say that you must set up a zone that way.

Code Plug: This is a Motorola term that has stuck over the years, and in the DMR context means a complete configuration file of channels, talk-groups, zones, contacts etc. for a radio. The code plug can be saved to file and is used to program a radio to give it the functionality a user requires.

CPS: Another Motorola term, meaning Customer Program Software. Simply put, this is the software you'd use to create a "code plug" and configure your radio.

Hotspot: A small box that connects to the internet and acts like your own personal low power DMR repeater, useful if you're not in range of a DMR repeater to access. You can even take them with you and use your cell / mobile phone wireless data to connect the hotspot to the internet and be able to use DMR anywhere you get cellular signal. Most hotspots are multi-mode, handling not only DMR but D-Star, Yaesu Fusion and P25 as well. ZUMspot, Jumbospot, Openspot, MMDVM etc. are all examples of hotspots that you can buy or build yourself.

N5VCX

BVARC Rag Chew Net

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

01/22/20, W5TKZ (NCS), W5VOM, K5LJ, N5VXU, KJ5Y (RCS)(W5FMH(CLUB))(Angleton), WW5PA, AA5OA (Fort Smith, AR), KE8JKF (Pinckney, MI), N5EKW (Katy), K2MPP (R), KD5ILA (Barling, OK), AA0ST (Dickenson), WA5CYI. (13 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 69, SN = 0, A = 5, K = 1 / Band Rpt: Fair

01/29/20, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, WW5PA, K2MPP, K5LJ, WA5CYI, W5VOM, KG5SXG, AA5OA (Fort Smith, AR), KF5EYX, KF5PHA. (11 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 74, SN = 11, A = 9, K = 2 / Band Rpt: Good

02/05/20, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, WA5CYI, K5LJ, W1BG (Katy), K2MPP, W5TOM, AA0ST (Dickenson), AA5OA (Fort Smith, AR), WW5PA, W5RH, WB5KTF (Austin), W5MPY (Altus). (14 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 70, SN = 0, A = 5, K = 1 / Band Rpt: Good

02/12/20, K5LKJ (NCS), W5VOM, W5TKZ, KI5EGH (Oklahoma City, OK), KF4SRU (Lute, FL), K2MPP, K5LJ, ABRRJ (Cypress), KG5SXG, WA5CYI, KG5WPE, W5ALW, KF5EYX. (13 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 71, SN = 0, A = 4, K = 1 / Band Rpt: Good

02/19/20, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TOM, K5JPP, W5VOM, W5TKZ, K5LJ, K2MPP, W5RH, KF5PHA, KG5SXG, WB4KTF, WW5PA, WA5ANF (T), NTEKW (Katy), W5ALW, KF5EYX, KC5JAR (Katy), KG5WPE. (18 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 70, SN = 0, A = 14, K = 4 / Band Rpt: Fair

(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 and learn what others are doing and share in the experiences. Come join in the conversation each Wednesday evening. Regards. John K5LKJ



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Michael Hardwick, N5VCX
n5vcx@att.net

Vice President (2019-2020)
Mark Janzer K5MGJ
k5mgj@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary (2020-2021)
Jon Noxon KF5TFJ
jon@noxon.cc

Corresponding Secretary (2019-2020)
Jeff Greer, W5JEF
greerjw@hotmail.com

Treasurer (Finish 2019-2020 term)
David Ely, N5EKW
Davidely@prodigy.net

2 Year At-Large Board Member A: (2020-2021)
Rick Hiller, W5RH
Rickhiller73@gmail.com

2 Year At-Large Board Member B: (2019-2020)
Scott Medbury KD5FBA
smedbury@windstream.net

1 Year At Large (2020)
JP Pritchard, k5JPP
jppnews@comcast.net

Regularly Scheduled Club Happenings:

General Meeting
Second Thursday each month, 7:30 PM
Imperial Park Sugarland Recreation Center at
234 Matlage Way, Sugar Land TX, 77478

Board of Directors Meeting
The Saturday before the 2nd Thursday, 9:00 AM (For Sept., check website)
Bayland Park Community Center
Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston.

Volunteer Examiner Program
The monthly ham testing session takes place on the same day and location as the BOD Meeting, but at 10:30 AM. However, please check the BVARC website for any last minute changes or updates.

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>

03/07/2020 | Greater Houston HamFest

Location: Rosenberg, TX
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://houstonhamfest.org/>

03/14/2020 | HamEXPO Spring 2020

Location: Belton, TX
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Temple Amateur Radio Club
Website: <https://www.tarc.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. 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 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 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 44, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2020

**BRAZOS VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

**March 7, Greater Houston Hamfest
March 12, Monthly General Membership Meeting**



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