



# BVARC BEACON



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

SEPTEMBER 2020

VOLUME 44 ISSUE 9

## BVARC SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Submitted by Mark Janzer, K5MGJ, BVARC VP

For Thursday, September 10th, 2020, there will be an online ZOOM meeting. The venue link will be on the website and email reflector. Our guest presenter will be Matt Heere, N3NWV who is a Parks on the Air (POTA) hunter and activator. This event has it's own awards and certificates and should be of especial interest to those that participated in the National Parks on the Air 3 years ago. He also has a number of videos on-line related to POTA. Go to his call at QRZ.com for more info and links to his videos and website.

We won't be having IN PERSON meetings for at least another couple months. Club Business meetings will be held over ZOOM.



## Texas QSO Party 2020

Submitted by Robie Elms, AJ4F, TDXS President

This is your personal invitation to operate in the 2020 Texas QSO Party! The TQP is a contest where everyone makes contacts with Texas and we need as many Texas stations to participate as possible! The TQP is primarily a Phone & CW contest that uses Texas' 254 counties as multipliers. As a result, many Texas stations choose to operate as mobiles so they can activate additional counties. The TQP has two operating periods, the first starts on Saturday September 12 at 9:00 AM and ends at 9:00 PM CDT. The second period starts on Sunday September 13 at 9:00 AM and ends at 3:00 PM CDT. For additional information see the Texas QSO Party webpage: <https://www.txqp.net/>



## TDXS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

### K5DX/50

Submitted by Robie Elms, AJ4F, TDXS President

2020 is the Texas DX Society's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and will have an on the air operating event to celebrate! TDXS members will operating with the call sign K5DX/50 on 160 through 6 Meters using CW, FT8, and SSB. Operation on other bands and modes is also likely. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW and a special commemorative QSL is available with a SASE or SAE with appropriate postage. Send QSLs to:

TEXAS DX SOCIETY – K5DX/50  
5303 S Mason Rd Apt 212  
Katy, TX 77450  
USA

The operating begins on September 14, 2020 at 00:00 UTC and ends on October 13, 2020 at 23:59 UTC. For additional information see <https://k5dx-50.tdxs.net/>.

## The Prez Says

The COVID-19 virus is still with us but it appears to be leveling off....I hope. From what I have heard, the number of infections are down as well as people being tested. Even though we are still a long way away from being virus free in the community, the “new normal” with masks and distancing will be around for several more months

August’s meeting with Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, was a real treat. Riley explained the new ARRL Volunteer Monitoring and how it works and its purpose. He said approximately 190 volunteers are devoting their time to help amateur radio to make people better operators. The entire program is on the BVARC web site if you missed it. If you missed it, I would recommend taking time and listening to it. If you get a chance, drop Riley an e-mail thanking him for a great program.

Our program list for the rest of the year has been filled out and I think everyone will enjoy them. The programs are:

<b>September</b>	Scott Medbury	Parks on the Air with Matt Heere, N3NWV who is a Parks on the Air (POTA) hunter and activator.
<b>October</b>	Dave Ely	Civil Air Patrol - How Radio is used Supporting the Air Force and SAR missions
<b>November</b>	Rick Hiller	Baluns and Chokes – Why We Need Them and What They Are For
<b>Also don’t forget BVARC Elections – More information in the next newsletter</b>		
<b>December</b>	Mark Janzer	Finding Emelia Earhart by Using Radio Signals

Stay tuned to W5RH’s weekly e-mail blast, the BVARC reflector and the newsletter for changes and updates.

By the time you read this, a unique weather event will have come and gone – I hope. As of now, two tropical depressions – Marco and Laura are entering the Gulf of Mexico. This is such a rare event that it has only happened twice before since hurricanes have been tracked. As of now, Marco and Laura like it will hit southern Louisiana two days apart. Hopefully everyone was ready for the storms and had their Go-Kits packed!

The club reached a milestone this last month - 252 club members! When I was elected president in 2001, the club was having a hard time even paying the club insurance. It has been hard to grow from 85 members, but it has happened. I want to thank everyone that has helped on making the club the largest one in Houston and one of the largest in Texas. I also want to thank everyone that continues to keep the club functions going. From the newsletter to the “Stir Crazy” net controls to everyone working on VE testing, thank you for your work. Without you, BVARC would not be here.

So, remember to wear your mask, keep social distancing and keep those hands washed.



Here is picture of me working on my radio van!

# Field Day 2020 – The Covid 19 Top Op Contest

One can say that this year has been like no other, at least in the decades of our life time. So, as Field Day 2020 was thrust upon us, even as the Covid 19 pandemic was ravaging the planet, we ham radio operators trudged forth with total abandon and went about our usual Field Day business as best we could. Most worked from home, but it mattered not, we were on the air, generating Q's for ourselves and our designated club, a temporary rule change for this year. But in between those additive Q's we also had an incentive to participate in an inter-club rivalry. Instead of our usual joint-mega-field-day extravaganza, we would have a bit of a BVARC, KARS, TDXS and ECHO inter-club competition – the **Field Day 2020 Covid-19 Top Op** contest. Rules were simple: operate as usual and report your scores for most Q's in CW, Phone and Digital and one last category - your ARRL reported total Field Day score. I am pleased to report the results below.

A total of 36 entries were received. Summing up to a total of over 11,000 Q's.

Participants, in no particular order, were:

N5VCX, KD5FBA, K5JPP, K5EC, W5AQY, K5LKJ, AJ4F, K5LJ, WA5ANF, KE5VNY, W5TKZ, WG5H, W5GCX, NT5SM, W2OZB, N5XZ, W5RH, K5IZO, K0NM, KE4DRF, K5DSM, W5JAZ, KE8G, N9MM, KI5HNY, K5HEM, N5DTT, K5GZR, KG5U, W5WKK, KC5TT, N5MT, K5MGJ, WB5TKI, N5EKW and KG5SXG.

Who were the Top Ops? Below are listed the Win, Place and Show for each category

	<b>Phone Q's</b>	<b>CW Q's</b>	<b>Digital Q's</b>	<b>ARRL Field Day Score</b>
<b>Win ----</b>	<b>Norm, N9MM- 682</b>	<b>Allen, N5XZ-1545</b>	<b>Jeff, KC5TT-630</b>	<b>Nizar K0NM-5332</b>
<b>Place ---</b>	<b>John, K5EC-140</b>	<b>Norm, N9MM-1384</b>	<b>Shawn, W5AQY-371</b>	<b>Dale, KG5U-4184</b>
<b>Show --</b>	<b>Scott, NT5SM-131</b>	<b>Nizar, K0NM-1332</b>	<b>Mike, N5MT-352</b>	<b>Jim, KE8G-4000</b>

Plaques and certificates will be presented at the BVARC annual banquet in January 2021

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## **MINUTES**

**Board of Directors Meeting, Saturday, August 8, 2020**

**Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club**

As this issue goes to press, this information is not available. Please look for it in next month's issue.

# **The Radio Hotel** -- SWR – The Coax Z to Antenna Z Disparity

by Rick Hiller W5RH

A cardinal rule is defined as a fundamental rule upon which other matters hinge. The cardinal rules of the Standing Wave Ratio are:

- 1 – The Standing Wave Ratio, or SWR, is determined **only** at the physical point where the feedline meets the antenna. SWR is generated by the mismatch of the feedline's impedance (Z) to the antenna's feed impedance (Z). The forward power and reflected power generated at the feed point are also used to calculate SWR. SWR remains constant thru out the feed system, with minor changes due to resistive losses. The SWR is stated, i.e. 1:1.5, or spoken as "one point five to one".
- 2 -- The system's lowest SWR is always found at the antenna's resonant frequency, even in the case of the antenna's resonant feed impedance not being equal to the feedline's characteristic impedance.
- 3 -- The antenna system's SWR is always lowest at the shack end of the coax due to transmission line losses. The shack end of the coax has 1) the maximum forward power from the transmitter and 2) the minimum measured reflected power coming back from the antenna (due to resistive losses). This means that the SWR at the antenna feedpoint can be higher than what you see in the shack.

Antenna system SWR is one of the most important factors that must be measured to ensure efficient operation of our stations. For the typical coaxial transmission line, the characteristic impedance is nominally 50 ohms. Most of the commonly used antennas have a resonant feed impedance of close to 50 ohms also. The closer to 50 ohms that each impedance is, the lower the SWR, meaning minimum reflected power and maximum forward power to the antenna..

Common ways to obtain the system's SWR is to measure it by using the appropriate SWR meter, antenna analyzer, OIB – Operating Impedance Bridge or simply a power/watt meter. These devices will measure the forward power and internally compare it, or allow us to manually compare it, to the measured reflected power. Since the SWR is fairly constant in the system, we can place the measuring device anywhere within the feedline. (Note: the newer VNA/ microcomputer based analyzers measure the impedance  $R$  and  $\pm j$  seen at their insertion point and arithmetically calculate the SWR value.

Transmission lines and SWR have a deep technological history. They are based on solid, practical physics and can be defined by absolute, mathematical equations. To learn more about SWR, have a look at the series of **The Radio Hotel** columns in the **BVARC newsletters 2014 May to December**. These can be found online, on the BVARC website home page, left side, under "All Club Newsletters". <http://www.bvarc.org/newsletters.php>

I hope this helps kickoff your venture into the sometimes confusing world of RF transmission lines, impedances and SWR. Being the ham radio enthusiast that you are, it is well worth the trip, I promise.

Enjoy your hobby. 73...Rick W5RH

# Cutting Through the Static – Evolution of a Ham

JP Pritchard, K5JPP

Most hobbies these days demand the attention of your wallet. Whether it's buying rare specimens for your philately or numismatic efforts, your hobby will likely be stamped out if you don't devote a few coins to your pursuit. That's true for ham radio too. You won't be able to tune in, you'll have to drop out.

When I revived my interest in amateur radio, I had been out of the hobby world for some time. I had dabbled in fishing (with an old, barely functional boat and motor) and astronomy, with a "kid grade" telescope. If I'd gone all in on those hobbies, I would have had to shell out a serious bundle. Have you priced bass boats or serious telescopes lately?

Yes, you could spend an equivalent price of a nice telescope on a high-end transceiver, but you can also do very well by spending a whole lot less. But this month's column isn't about buying your first transceiver. It's about what happens when you feel the tingle that screams "I want a new radio! I NEED a new radio!" Of course, "new" can mean "different," as in "previously enjoyed," but nonetheless, it's a need for new knobs.

As you might have guessed by now, I had been living that obsession for a while. Not that there's anything wrong with my Kenwood 590sg. Au contraire, it's a very nice radio. And Though I never get tired of my lovely bride, I am tired of this radio. That realized, the search began.

What features or functions do I want in a new radio? How much should I spend? And I had another question as well. Does it need to have knobs?

(A lot of hams have a real need for knobs and buttons. An obsession with control panel stuff is actually what got me interested and led to my career as a radio broadcaster. Back in the day, there were BIG knobs, known as pots, on your typical broadcast board (mixer). And big switches too. I've never really outgrown that, but actual knobs are rare in today's broadcast studio. It's all sliders, little knobs and scrawny buttons.)

I thought to myself, "I've given up clickity clack channel changers on TVs and four-on-the-floor" gear shifts in cars, so maybe I can do without knobs as well."

As you've probably guessed by now, I began considering SDR radios. This is the fault of BVARC member Jeff AA0ST. He had purchased a Flex Radio 6000 series SDR and was raving about how well it worked for him. Roy W5TKZ told me much the same story. So, I started looking at features and benefits. Even the less expensive Flex 6400 allowed me to check off a bunch of requirements on my list of needs and wants. And I do love a radio with a pan-adapter so I can see what's happening on a band. Great noise reduction too and the Flex radios play nice with lots of ancillary software, including a myriad of loggers, WSJT-X and even Ham Radio Deluxe. And WOW. You can even bring up an overlay of dx-cluster call signs and frequencies right there on the computer monitor pan-adapter.



But there was that problem. No KNOBS! My sense of skepticism rose up like a firefighter at the sound of an alarm. Once again, Jeff AA0ST helped me make up my mind. It happened one Saturday morning at the IHOP as he showed off his new Flex Maestro remote unit. He immediately connected to his Flex Radio back at the house via the internet, wifi or otherwise, on his shiny new Maestro. He can fully operate remotely anywhere there's an internet connection. It is so beautiful, with a nice touch screen and YES! KNOBS! And buttons too. You can do the same thing with an iPad, but again, no knobs. At any rate, the promise of knobs was all it took. A feeling of surrender overcame me and I got out my credit card. I'll live with only one knob for a while, and then I'll get a Maestro to go with it so I too can happily operate remotely while my wife thinks I'm working on her list of honey-dos.

# The Feed Point

(BVARC Member Stories: How We Got Here)

This Month's Featured Ham - Jim Burrough, N5DTT

My interest in Amateur Radio began back as a Boy Scout and reader of its journal, *Boy's Life*. But I really did not act on my interest until I was married, a father and well established in my profession. I had purchased a scanner so I could keep track of the Bellaire Police and Fire Departments. That required that I purchase crystals for their frequencies. I saw the crystal for 146.88 MHz, had room in the scanner, so bought it too. Once I started hearing the activity on the WR5AAA repeater, I was hooked. I started to explore how to get a license.

I soon discovered the Houston Amateur Radio Club and found out they offered classes for a Novice license. The first night of classes, I met two of the most interesting people I have ever known. Mick Lang, WB5RSS, taught the Novice class, mostly teaching code, along with aspects of good amateur practice. Mick was a CW guy through and through. The other person I met was Franz Laugermann, now K3FL. I have worked with him as one of his VEs for 17 years.

I passed the Novice Code test after a couple of months of Friday night classes and took the Novice Theory exam a couple of weeks later. While I waited for my ticket to arrive, I began studying for my Technician License. Two days after the Novice License arrived, I took the Technician exam at the downtown FCC office. I was now KA5LSY/HU. My first Amateur contact was on 2 meters with Mick. He became a very good friend and my Elmer.

I got involved with West Houston RACES and met many great Hams with an interest in public service. I volunteered to work radio communications for the Houston Marathon and have been a part of that group since 1982. My work with West Houston RACES led me to an interest in Emergency Management.

I took my 13 wpm code test in April of 1985 and qualified for my General License. I got active along with Mick and others in a weekly 10-meter net. My father-in-law, also a Ham (W9LHW), and I set up a weekly scheduled contact on 40 meters. He was a Marine Communications Specialist in World War Two and he was in the radio and television repair business so he had lots of resources for just about any project either of us could dream up.

I passed the Amateur Advanced license in 1999 and I got my master's degree in 2001 – the year of Tropical Storm Allison and the September 11th terrorist attack. That led to full time work in Emergency Management and I stayed with that until I retired in February 2013.

I achieved my Extra license in the meantime, bought a good HF radio and got interested in contesting. I pursue that at my country place in Fayette County and am working to make my operation more competitive. Right now, I have a 60-foot freestanding Universal Tower with a Mosely tribander on top. I am erecting a 40-meter elevated vertical and a second 40-foot Universal tower that will support a 15-meter monobander fixed on Europe. The two towers will provide support for a 40/80 meter dipole between them and my hope is to be able to add a 160 meter Inverted-L antenna to the 60-foot tower.

I find contesting to be greatly relaxing as well as a constant challenge. In contesting, hard work and skill pay off. You can see the results in your score. That is why I accepted the Contest Chairman responsibilities with the Texas DX Society.

There is no better place than contesting to test yourself and your station equipment. There is no better way than contesting to get the DXCC and WAS awards. And There is no better way to introduce a new General or Extra to the wonderful world of HF operating where he or she can make dozens or hundreds of contacts in a short period of time.

I have not mentioned other friends I have made all over the world through my contesting activities. It's a great way to connect with others and it's a wonderful hobby. I will never be a Big Gun but I'm going to have a heck of a good time with my radios and my antennas, doing every U. S. and International Contest I can.

73, N5DTT, Jim Burrough

Editor's Note: JP, K5JPP, BVARC At Large Director, has initiated soliciting members to tell us their ham radio story – how they got interested in amateur radio, where the hobby has taken them, etc. . The above article, by Jim, N5DTT, is the latest. Hopefully members will respond with articles in the forthcoming months. Get with JP to coordinate this. His contact info in on the website.



## August VE - FCC TESTING SESSIONS RESULTS

Bayland Community Center is open and we're continuing to conduct testing sessions there. They have imposed a restricted headcount, which limits the amount of people in the test room. For the Saturday, August 1st test session: We had 8 candidates and conducted 14 tests. Oddly, the paperwork was mailed to the ARRL-VEC on August 1<sup>st</sup>, but didn't arrive in Newington until August 18<sup>th</sup>. The updates in the FCC-ULS database appeared on 8/20, which is unusually long.

### New Licensees:

Zheng, C. (General)  
Horton, R. (Technician)  
Mehl, D. (Technician)  
Smith, F. (Technician)  
Pasquier, M. (Technician)

### Upgrades

KI5IPQ (Extra)

Congratulations to all!

A GREAT thank you to the VEs in attendance – W5JAZ and K5LJ.

The next BVARC test session is Saturday September 19th, at 10:30 (we think).

When times are normal, 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.



## Hamfests

(typically within 200 miles of Houston)

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

### Belton Ham Expo – Fall 2020

Belton, TX  
CANCELLED

### 10/17/2020 –

### South Texas Hamfest & Electronics Expo

**Location:** Sinton, TX

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** South Texas Hamfest Association

**Website:** <https://southtexashamfest.org/>

### 01/08/2021 - 01/09/2021

### Radio Fiesta 2021

**Location:** Schertz, TX

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** San Antonio Radio Club

**Website:** [w5sc.org](http://w5sc.org)

**Where in the World is . . .**  
**SBA (ZC4)**  
**CQ Zone 20 ITU Zone 39**  
**IOTA AS-004**

What happens when two peoples can't get along? Pretty much, places like Cyprus happen. Owing to its strategic location Cyprus is one of the most conquered places in the Mediterranean Sea. It has been conquered by Alexander the Great, Egypt, Venice, by Richard I during the Third Crusade, followed by the Ottoman Turks in 1570.

After the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878, a war lasting 10 months, 1 week and 2 days, the Ottoman Empire lost control of many of its Balkan possessions, owing to the rise of nationalism and the fact that the Turkish government was basically broke. As a result, Britain simply helped itself to Cyprus in 1878 making the island a British protectorate. With the outbreak of WW 1 and the Turks becoming formal allies of Germany, Great Britain annexed the island as part of the British Empire. Finally, in

1925, Cyprus formally became a British Crown Colony.



Although the island is of overwhelming Greek extraction, Greek and Turkish Cypriots do not always get along. This has led to several uprisings, invasions, and guerilla conflicts down through the centuries. Even though the island is closer to Turkey, geographically, its Greek Cypriot majority about 90%, make it attractive to Greece for economic and strategic reasons.

The island is divided along ethnic lines between Greek Cypriots in the Republic of Cyprus in the southern half of the island and Turkish Cypriots in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The Northern government is recognized only by Turkey.

In 1960 Cyprus became an independent nation under the agreement between the UK, Greece, and Turkey. But wait, there is more. Under this agreement the British retain two Sovereign Base Areas (SBA) See map. The SBA's are more than military bases. Several civilian villages are part of the base areas. It covers a total of 98 square miles and a populace of 15,000. Both Britain and Cyprus are part of the EU, which has Brexit issues. And yes, in the SBA's and throughout Cyprus, they drive on the left had side of the road.

The Green Line that divides the island resulted from a Greek coup d'état to unite the island with Greece in 1974. Five days later the Turkish Army invaded Cyprus. After order was restored, the dispute was eventually resolved by under the auspices of the U.N. A demilitarized zone (Green Line) was established to keep the two sides apart.

The ZC4 prefix was added to the DXCC list in March 1985, According to QRZ.com, there are 96 existing ZC4 call signs issued to hams. Many of them may be inactive if they were attached to British military personnel or temporary operations. The most recent DX-pedition was that of a team from the Cambridge Wireless Society who operated under the call sign, ZC4UW. They were active from January 2 – 7, 2020. The UK Sovereign Base Areas currently rank number 141 on Club Log's Most wanted list.



Reporting from the Dark Side

Ron Litt, K5HM

## BVARC Rag Chew Net

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

07/29/20, K5LKJ(NCS), KG5SBA (Lake Charles, LA), K5JPP, W5VOM, KE4DRF. WW5PA, K5PGF, K2MPP, W5DGM, N5VCX, K5LJ, KB7QL (Rustin, LA), W5TKZ, K5IZO, KL7AX (Katy), KG5QQI (Cypress). (16 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 72, SN = 22, A = 4, K = 1 / Band Rpt: Fair

08/05/20, K5PGF, (NCS), K5LKJ/5 (Willis), KB7QL (Rustin, LA), K5TNL, W5TKZ, W5VOM, K2MPP, AA5OA/5 (RCS)(Fort Smith,AR), KE4DRF, WA9YNJ (Horseshoe Bay). (10 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: Data not available.), Band Rpt: Fair

08/12/20, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, K5LJ, WB4KTF (Austin), W5VOM, WW5PA, K2MPP, KL7AX (Katy), KB7QL (Rustin, LA), K5HEC. (10) Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 73, SN = 12, A = 4, K = 1 / Band Rpt: Fair

08/19/20, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, W5TOM, K2MPP, W5RH, WW5PA, W5VOM, W5TKZ, K5TNL (Spring), K5IZO, K5LJ, KE4DRF, WA5ANF (T), KL7AX (Katy), K5HEC, N5VCX. (16) Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 70, SN = 12, A = 7, K = 1 / Band Rpt: Fair

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

Net conditions have been fair this month. Fire up the rig and hear what others are doing and share in their experiences. Come join in the conversation each Wednesday evening. Regards. John K5LKJ



## AREA CLUB TESTING SESSION SCHEDULE

**BVARC** – [www.bvarc.org](http://www.bvarc.org)

**Testing** – Typically on the Saturday before the second Thursday, at 10:30am at the Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston, contact Mark Janzer, [k5mgj@yahoo.com](mailto:k5mgj@yahoo.com)

**KATY ARS** - [www.katyars.com](http://www.katyars.com)

**Testing** - Typically on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at 9:30am at the Westlake VFD, 19636 Saums Rd. Houston, contact Gerald Doucet, [testinginfo@katyars.com](mailto:testinginfo@katyars.com)

**OAK FOREST ARC** - <http://www.ofarc.org/>

**Testing** – Typically, the 4th Saturday of the month at 6:00pm, location TBD, contact Mark Landress, [wb5ann@arrl.net](mailto:wb5ann@arrl.net)

**NORTHWEST ARS** - <http://www.w5nc.net/>

**Testing** – Typically the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month at 8am, location Klein VFD Admin. Bldg, behind Klein FD Station 4, 16810 Squyres Rd., Spring, contact Ron Matusek, [ronm1@att.net](mailto:ronm1@att.net) or [vec@w5nc.net](mailto:vec@w5nc.net)

**Harris County Emergency Management (HCOHSEM)**

**Testing** - Typically the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm, Transtar 6922 Katy Rd., Houston, contact Franz Laugerman, [franzlaugerman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:franzlaugerman@sbcglobal.net)

# 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 temporarily virtual via ZOOM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. If you have signed up for the reflector, you will receive notice and the attendance password, etc. It will also be on the website (above) a few days beforehand.

**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. Masks and social distancing are required.

A Public Service Net is held each Monday at 8 p.m. on the 146.94 (minus offset, PL 167.9 tone) repeater.

During COVID-19 a "Stir Crazy Net" is also held weekdays at 12 Noon on the same frequency as above.

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)

Newsletter Printing, Assembly and Mailing: Daphne Rawlinson, K5VQY, [daphne\\_rawlinson@hotmail.com](mailto:daphne_rawlinson@hotmail.com).

Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, [k5cam@arrl.net](mailto:k5cam@arrl.net) ; Mike Teers, KG5SXG, [miketrs@windstream.net](mailto:miketrs@windstream.net)

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

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

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**SEPTEMBER 2020**

**BRAZOS VALLEY  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
P.O. BOX 2997**

**SUGAR LAND, TX 77487-2997**  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**FIRST CLASS POSTAGE**

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September 10 - Virtual Monthly Meeting via Zoom. See the meeting notice citing the details.

September 12-13 - Texas QSO Party

September 14-October 13 – TDXS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Operating Event



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