



# BVARC BEACON



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

NOVEMBER 2020

VOLUME 44 ISSUE 11

## BVARC NOVEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

For Thursday, November 12th, 2020 there will be an online ZOOM meeting. Presentation will be by Rick Hiller W5RH, talking about Cokes, Baluns and RF transformers. We'll also have annual elections for Officers and Directors – PLEASE CONSIDER SERVING AS AN OFFICER OR DIRECTOR of BVARC – your input/service is valuable and invigorates your club! -

Zoom invite details will be posted pre-meeting. We won't be having IN PERSON meetings for at least another few months (the Sugarland facility is still closed).

Club Business meetings will be held over ZOOM.



## MUSEUM SHIPS – GALVESTON NAVAL MUSEUM

The museum ships are:

<a href="#">USS Stewart</a>	WWII Destroyer Escort	Galveston, TX
<a href="#">SS Selma</a>	WWI Merchant ship (Concrete Hull)	Galveston, TX
<a href="#">USS Cavalla</a>	WWII Submarine	Galveston, TX

BVARC conducts radio operations aboard the museum ships at the Galveston Naval Museum (on Pelican Island) during Museum Ships Weekend, typically in early June. 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 try to plan having three stations available for operations. Two on the Stewart (one is within sight of the Selma) and one in the Cavalla. For this annual event there is limited overnight accommodations available on the Stewart. We're hoping to expand active radio operations beyond just the Museum Ships Weekend, as volunteer radio docents, for the museum.

To prepare and maintain radio activity (pun intended), we have work parties several times a year.

A "Work Party" will be held sometime late in November and/or December, on board the ships. We are to repair the Cavalla submarine's wire antenna (it's currently disengaged), re-run new transmission lines to the radio room and add a balun at the transmission line/antenna interface in the conning tower. IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP OUT AT THE UPCOMING "WORK PARTY(S)", CONTACT MARK JANZER (K5MGJ) at [K5MGJ@YAHOO.COM](mailto:K5MGJ@YAHOO.COM).



## The Prez Says

I hope everyone that enjoyed the October Zoom meeting on Civil Air Patrol radio communications. Dave Ely, N5EKW, is a great source of information on CAP and I really appreciate him stepping up and doing the presentation. When you can, drop Dave an e-mail thanking him for such a great program.

Coming up in November is the annual Chili supper .....oops, sorry Freudian slip. I would like to have the chili supper but not yet. Hopefully next year we can be back to normal (or as normal as a ham club can get!).

The November Zoom program is just around the corner along with club elections. Rick Hiller, W5RH, has put together a great presentation on “Chokes, Baluns, and Transformers” that should help everyone understand their purpose. Rick (boy, he gets around!) will also handling the elections. If you would like to volunteer to help with club functions and events, let Rick know. Rick is also organized the election and is taking nominations. Check the newsletter for more information on both. Remember without your help serving the club, the club will die. We need your help to keep BVARC running and growing.

Our December Zoom meeting will have a presentation on “Finding Amelia Earhart by Radio”. It is a unique look at how Amelia Earhart crash site has been located (more or less) using HF signals from the people that were monitoring her flight. It is an insight that I never thought of. I will be on the meeting and hopefully you will as well. There may be a radio raffle on the December meeting, Details will be posted on the website and on Rick’s weekly e-mail blast.

Tentatively, the BVARC annual banquet will be scheduled for Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (where has the time gone!). The banquet, if held, will be the same arrangements as the 2020 banquet. More information will be published in the December newsletter so stay tuned.

Last but not least, The Greater Houston Hamfest would normal be just around the corner. The scheduled dates are Thursday March 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> for set-up. A dinner may be held Friday evening as we had in 2020. The main event, if it happens, will be on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. Due to COVID-19, having the GHHF could be a problem with the crowds and participants from large areas. If GHHF happens, a larger volunteer pool will be needed since we will need to have temperature stations as well as maintaining sanitation stations. The estimate on volunteers is close to 60 people and that may not be possible. More information to following in the next few weeks.

See everyone at the chili supper (oops, I slipped again)!

73, N5VCX



### October VE - FCC TESTING SESSIONS RESULTS

Bayland Community Center is open, though they still have a restricted headcount, limiting the number of people in the test room. For Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, we had 6 candidates and conducted 8 tests.

#### New Licensees:

Walsh, E. (General)  
Andrews, K. (Technician)  
Rogers, C. (Technician)  
Demianew, R. (Technician)

#### Upgrades

KI5FPY (General)  
KC5RIL (General)

Congratulations to all!

A GREAT, **GREAT** thank you to the VEs in attendance – K5GOL, W5JAZ, and K5LJ.

The next BVARC test session is Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30am.

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

# The Radio Hotel

## Chokes, Baluns and Transmission Line Transformers

By Rick W5RH

Most hams, when trying to understand antenna systems, have a bit of a problem in defining the different devices used to control and assist their antenna system in working properly. So, first, a few fundamental definitions, as related to Ham Radio antenna systems.

**A Choke** – is an inductor (L) used in an antenna system to block common mode currents produced due to a system imbalance or by induced antenna radiation currents. It can be as simple as an air wound coil of wire or coax or it can be wound on a ferrite core of some type – a torroid, beads, or a rod.

**A Balun** – is an inductor based passive RF device that converts a balanced signal from an unbalanced signal. A balun's input and output impedances are typically equal 1:1, but it can also be configured to transform impedance ratios such as 4:1 or 9:1. Common-mode chokes are also used as baluns and work by causing the elimination of common mode currents.

**A Transmission Line Transformer** – is a TL based device used to match different RF impedances. They can be configured to simultaneously provide the transition from unbalanced to balanced or unbalanced to unbalanced. Transmission-line transformers are mandatory at frequencies where traditional magnetic coupling transformers don't operate properly.

**A Trap** – is, typically, a combination of an inductor and a capacitor that blocks/stops the flow of RF energy along the length of an antenna element. Similar to a choke but with the addition of a capacitor it has a resonant "active" frequency, so typically it is related to a narrow band of frequencies. i.e. 20 meter trap.

**A Loading Coil** – is an inductor that is used to provide additional electrical length to an antenna element while keeping the physical length shorter than a resonant, linear element.

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In the transmission line portion of the antenna system, we use coax and twin lead (also called ladder line or open wire line). Coax is an unbalanced type of transmission line and twin lead is balanced. But just what is balanced or unbalanced?

**Unbalanced** cable, i.e. coax, uses the center wire that carries the varying voltage. The second wire or shield, is at ground potential and acts as a reference point.

A **Balanced** transmission line uses two wires, both isolated from ground and both carrying a varying voltage – but the voltage on one of them is phase-shifted by 180°. Hence, minimal radiation from the TL, as the out-of-phase voltages (mostly) cancel.

We can now take these definitions to the next level and find out how these devices are made, how they help us and where to use them. But, I am out of space, so I encourage you to tune in to the BVARC November club meeting where we will have a presentation about **Chokes, Baluns and Transmission Line Transformers**. November 12<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM Elections too.

Enjoy your hobby. 73, Rick -- W5RH

**Where in the World is . . .**  
**The Seychelles Islands (S7)**  
**CQ Zone 39**  
**IOTA AF-024**

The Seychelles is an archipelago of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean off East Africa, known for its beaches, coral reefs, diving, nature reserves and rare wildlife such as giant Aldabra tortoises. Mahé island, with an international airport, is a key transport hub, home to capital Victoria, the mountain rainforests, Seychellois National Park and white-sand beaches.



The Seychelles were uninhabited throughout most of recorded history. The earliest recorded sighting by Europeans took place in 1502 by the Portuguese Admiral Vasco da Gama, who passed through the Amirantes and named them after himself (islands of the Admiral). Nice Going Vasco.



A transit point for trade between Africa and Asia, the islands were occasionally used by pirates until the French took over in 1756. During the Napoleonic Wars, Britain eventually assumed full control upon the surrender of neighboring Mauritius in 1810. Seychelles became a British Crown Colony separate from Mauritius in 1903. Elections were held in 1966 and 1970.

When the British gained control of the islands, they allowed the French upper class to retain their land. Both the French and British settlers used enslaved Africans, and although the British prohibited slavery in 1835, African workers continued to come. Thus the *Gran blan* ("big whites") of French origin dominated economic and political life. The British administration employed Indians on indentured servitude resulting in a small Indian population.

Through harmonious socioeconomic policies and developments over the years, today Seychelles is described as a fusion of peoples and cultures. Numerous Seychellois are considered multiracial: blending from African, Asian and European descent to create a modern creole culture. Evidence of this harmonious blend is also revealed in seychellois food, incorporating various aspects of French, Chinese, Indian and African cuisine.

As the islands of Seychelles had no indigenous population, the current Seychellois are composed of people who have immigrated. The largest ethnic groups were those of African, French, Indian and Chinese descent. French and English are official languages along with Seychellois Creole, which is primarily based upon French, yet nowadays is often laced with English words and phrases.



The prime agricultural products currently produced in the Seychelles include sweet potatoes, vanilla, coconuts and cinnamon. These products provide much of the economic support of the locals.



In 1971, with the opening of Seychelles International Airport, tourism became a significant industry, essentially dividing the economy into plantations and tourism. The tourism sector paid better, and the plantation economy could only expand so far. The plantation sector of the economy declined in prominence, and tourism became the primary industry of Seychelles.

In recent years the government has encouraged foreign investment to upgrade hotels and other services. These incentives have given rise to an enormous amount of investment in real estate projects and new resort properties. The government has moved to reduce the dependence on tourism by promoting the development of farming, fishing, and small-scale manufacturing and most recently the offshore financial sector. Sounds like a good place to stash your money too.

The Aldabra Giant Tortoise populates many of the islands of the Seychelles. These unique reptiles can be found even in captive herds.

There are several unique varieties of orchids on the islands. Seychelles hosts some of the largest seabird colonies in the world. The marine life around the islands, especially the more remote coral islands, can be spectacular. More than 1,000 species of fish have been recorded.

According to QRZ.Com, there are 129 licensed amateurs, although many of them are foreign visitors or DXpeditions. The Seychelles are 158<sup>th</sup> on the list of Most Wanted DXCC list according to Club Log.

Reporting from the Dark Side,

Ron, K5HM



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

# The Annual BVARC Elections Nov. 12th For 2021 Board of Directors Offices

This is a “Call for Candidates” for:

Vice President      Treasurer      Corresponding Secretary  
Recording Secretary      2 Year At Large Director      1 Year At Large  
Director

Even in the shadow of CV-19, BVARC must continue to operate and we need dedicated members to do just that. The requirement: a once a month Board of Directors meeting for about an hour that is currently on Zoom. Some offices, however, require a bit more time than that, but not much really.

By being on the BOD you get to see how the club is run and provide your input to making the club a better place to hang your ham radio hat. Step up, volunteer to be part of the core group that runs BVARC. It is fun, it is satisfying and it doesn't take much time.

Nominations must be into the nominating committee by Nov 11. A few dedicated members have stepped forward, but more are needed as we don't want these folks to run unopposed.

Nominations or questions? Contact: Rick Hiller-- W5RH -- rickhiller73@gmail.com 832-474-3713. TNX  
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## BVARC Elections Special Procedures for 2020

Due to the Covid 19 limitations causing us to hold our meetings on-line via Zoom, we have had to rethink the process of our annual elections. **In a nutshell, the elections will still be held at the November 12th meeting, but on Zoom.** Details on how this will occur will be provided on the nets and on the weekly News Blast.

**Your duties, in the meantime, as an active member of BVARC are to:**

- 1) **Spread the word about the elections.**
- 2) **Talk to your fellow members and discuss being a candidate.**
- 3) **Review the BVARC Weekly News BLAST for detailed election procedures.**
- 4) **Attend the November meeting on Zoom to generate a Quorum.**
- 5) **Vote for each of the offices when the slate is presented.**

Thank you for being an active member of BVARC and we look forward to your active participation in the November election. The Nomination Committee..... contact us at [rickhiller73@gmail.com](mailto:rickhiller73@gmail.com)

## Cutting Through the Static – Deciphering the Code

It's often said that Morse Code is the original digital mode. Digital is combinations of ones and zeros, offs and ons, ups and downs -- the binary building blocks of bits and bytes that become words, numbers and almost any kind of information you can think of. In Morse code, it is the same thing -- but it's dits and dahs -- binary digital messaging, sent via radio at light speed, but understood coming through your headphones or speaker at brain speed.

Those who are proficient at Morse Code might be considered as the "elite corps" of ham radio, having cleared a hurdle beyond what it takes to pass tests of knowledge for amateur radio licenses.

Morse code is the perfect solution for a ham who wants to pursue the hobby without spending a fortune on gear. Like FT8 and other more modern digital modes, Morse Code will allow you to communicate with hams around the world with a more modest investment in equipment.

Sending and receiving code demands a lot less from the transceiver and can often get through the fog of poor propagation when voice communications are nearly impossible. And, QSO's in contests go a lot faster using Morse Code than in other modes -- meaning a fast and committed operator can complete hundreds of "Q's" in a contest weekend, compared to the dozens often completed by an SSB operator.

But here's the thing. Proficiency in Morse Code is a matter of brain training, or ear training, if you will.

Let's go to an important point right off the top. Learning Morse Code is not about memorizing a chart showing that "dit-dah" is equivalent to A and "dah-dit" means N. Experts tell us that system adds an extra step that will forever keep you trapped at a very slow speed.



BVARC member Nizar Mullani K0NM will tell you he is still learning, still vying for higher speeds. And he is quick to point out that he didn't get there by translating dits and dahs to letters and words. Doing that, he says, is like teaching babies to spell before they learn to speak. It just doesn't work that way.

Nizar learned code using what's known as the Farnsworth Method, where you learn to recognize the sound of letters, and then entire words and phrases embedded in the sound of the code. And while learning, you begin to recognize the characters delivered at high speed, but with longer pauses between characters. The idea is to learn the sound of the characters, that if delivered without the long pauses between characters, would be equivalent to 25 to 30 words per minute, or even faster.

The experts say if you learn the characters delivered at a slower speed, it will be very difficult to later raise your comprehension, and for that matter your delivery. It's all in how your synapses get "cemented" into place. If you make those connections at a slower speed, they tell us, it's very difficult to go beyond that speed.

All of what you are perceiving here, as Duke Ellington so elegantly put it 88 years ago, "don't mean a thing, if it ain't got that swing." In other words, writing and reading about Morse Code won't get you any closer to actually learning and using Morse Code.

There are lots of learning resources available on the web, including training software to get you started in learning code the Farnsworth way. Click around and you'll find a lot of material. Your search may very well land you on the CWOPS.ORG website. There, you can learn about the CW Academy and find a treasure trove of materials to help you along.

If you really want to learn Morse Code, I suggest you sign up for an upcoming session of the CW Academy. I did, and if I make the cut, I'll start on-line classes in January. Yes January. Class sizes are small, so there's always a waiting list. Maybe I'll see you there.

# The Feed Point

## BVARC Members, How We Got Here

Rick Hiller – W5RH

Events you'll always remember, like JFK being assassinated, or the shuttle exploding or 9-11. One of those times for me occurred outside my elementary school in West Reading, PA. Michael Korczykowski brought his new Dick Tracey 2-way Wrist Radio to school and I was hooked. Radio, CB and shortwave listening took over my life. I walked down the alley ways of my town on trash day, looking for old tube-type radios being tossed. With my Dad's help, I also built a Knight Kit Ocean Hopper Regenerative SW receiver. It was about \$20, which was a ton of money for a 11-year-old to muster up back then. I knew nothing about electronics and my accountant Father even less, but the kit instructions were clear and easy to follow.

I also remember the day I walked into the classroom of my new seventh grade algebra teacher, Hal Messer, and spotted a Swan 350 at the front of the room. There seemed to be a heavenly light glowing all around that Swan and the folded dipole deployed outside his third-floor windows. Hal, K3ATO, became my life-long friend and Elmer and led me to my Novice license a few years later, WN3OCV.

But that is where my Ham story stops for a while. I didn't upgrade and my Novice license expired after a year. And then I was off to technical school in Phoenix, and later a job in with a Houston-based seismic company that had me working all over the world, maintaining Raytheon RDS series mini-computers. Leisure time pursuits were motorcycle racing, audio gear and skydiving. It wasn't until after my daughter was born in 1986 that I plunged back into ham radio.

I soon passed the 13-wpm code test, as well as the Advanced written exam as well. KF5NU was born and I pursued every mode I could think of, including repeaters, public service, HF rag-chewing, DX chasing, antenna building, etc. My intense interest was antennas. I wanted to know how and why they worked. I reached a peak at my Sharpstown house by building a 50-foot tilt-over tower, topped by a home brew three-element tri-band beam. And Holy Toledo! That antenna opened up a world of DX for me. And for the next few years I could hear and work everything.

I withdrew from the hobby for a while to deal with medical issues, but jumped back into it a few years later, got my Extra and continued on with my antenna interest. I spent hours researching, experimenting and building full wave loops of every configuration.

I was still focused on antennas and I collected the complete paper publications of Ham Radio magazine along with many antenna articles pulled from QST, CQ and 73 magazines. I currently have file cabinets filled with those articles and as well as the DVD versions. The bookshelves in my shack contain pretty much any ham-oriented antenna book published since 1939, plus many classic - publications as well. It was this love of antennas that led to writing "[The Radio Hotel](#)" monthly column in the BVARC Beacon. And as I look to the future, I'm in the planning and testing stages of my lake house station in East Texas.

73...Rick – W5RH

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 Rick, W5RH, 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.

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

October 9, 2020 9:00 AM

Via Videoconference

Members Present:

Mike Hardwick N5VCX  
(President)

Mark Janzer K5MGJ (Vice  
President)

David Ely N5EKW  
(Treasurer)

Michael Monsour AC0TX  
(Quartermaster)

Scott Medbury KD5FBA (2  
yr at large director)

Rick Hiller W5RH (2 year at  
large director)

JP Pritchard K5JPP (1 yr at  
large director)

Jeff Greer W5JEF (Cor.  
Secretary)

Jimmy Vance NA5D

Allen Brier N5XZ

Chris Luppens KG5BBF

Recorded by Jeff Greer W5JEF Corresponding Secretary

1. Call to Order: The President called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM
2. Establishment of a Quorum: A business quorum was established, with 7 Board members present.
3. Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved.
4. Club President's Opening Statement: The President thanked those in attendance for taking the time to join the meeting.
5. Emergency Business: None.
6. Approval of Treasurer's Report: Approved.
7. Corresponding Secretary: CS gave the CS report.
8. Old Business:
  - Discussion about whether to continue the \$5 membership special for those who pass licensing exams. Special will continue.
  - We would like to do more Elmering/boot camp type activities, but need volunteers to lead/organize
  - Upcoming general membership meetings:
    - i. November 12<sup>th</sup>: Rick Hiller will provide a program on baluns (impedance transformers). Elections will be held via Zoom polling.
    - ii. December: Mark Janzer is confirming a program on finding Amelia Earhart.
    - iii. January: Reserving space at Bayland for a banquet.
9. New Business:
  - The Board voted to buy a dedicated Zoom account for the club.
  - The Board discussed holding Greater Houston Hamfest in person on March 6<sup>th</sup>, which is the same day as the QSO Today virtual hamfest.
  - Various ideas for future meeting topics were discussed.
10. Cost Saving Measures: Storage locker renewal is due end of October; need to get everything out prior.
11. Next BoD Meeting Date: Tentatively November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020
12. Comments:
13. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM



Editor's note: Last month's issue of the BEACON had some problems, possibly precipitated by the tight schedule. Apologies go to Rick Hiller for the inadvertent omission of The Radio Hotel, some format errors in Ron Litt's "Where in the world is . . ." and other lesser issues elsewhere. Also, due to space limitations, 2 regular articles were deliberately delayed until this month. With some added cross checks, and the adherence to the normal schedule, hopefully this will be minimized in the future.

## BVARC Rag Chew Net

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

08/26/20, K5LKJ(NCS), W5VOM, K5JPP, K5IZO, K2MPP, W5TKZ, KL7AX (Katy), WB5UEW (Houma, LA), KI5HC (League City), KE4DRF, AB5RU (Cypress), WW5PA (M), AC5O (Raceland, LA), K5TNL (Spring), W5RH, WB5KTF (Austin). (17 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 70, SN = 0, A = 4, K = 1 / Band Rpt: Fair

09/02/20, K5LKJ, (NCS), N5EKW (Katy), W5TKZ, WB5KTF (Austin), N5VCX, AA0ST (M)(Madisonville), K2MPP, KG5WDF, AB5RJ (Cypress), K5LJ, KG5NDS, N4ELU, KB7QL (Rustin, LA), K5JPP, W5RH, WW5PA (M)(Sugar Land), W5VOM (R), WA5ANF (T), WD5K (T). (19 Check-Ins). Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 68, SN = 0, A = 9, K = 1 / Band Rpt: Fair

09/09/20, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, K5LJ, K5IZO/5 (Jasper), K5JPP, W5DRB (Brazoria), K2MPP, N5VCX/5 (Jasper), WW5PA, KB7QL (Rustin, LA), K5HEC (R), W5RH, WA5ANF (T), WD5L (T), K5PGF, KL7AX (Katy), WB4KTF (Austin), KF5MTV/5 (Austin) (18 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 73, SN = 12, A = 4, K = 1 / Band Rpt: Fair

09/16/20, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, K5IZO/5 (Jasper), WW5PA, W5VOM (R), W5RH, K2MPP, W5DRB (Brazoria), N5PKW (R)( Brazoria), K5JPP, K5JPR (Kempner), W5ALW, K5LJ, KE4DRF, KI5IFX, W5THC, KG5WDF, WD5L (T), KF5PHA, KV5SIX (Keller). (20 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 69, SN = 0, A = 7, K = 0 / Band Rpt: Fair

09/23/20, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, W5VOM, WW5PA, K5LJ, K5IZO, W5TKZ, W5DRB (Brazoria), K2MPP, K5TNL (Spring), W5ALW, AB5RJ (Cypress), KL7AX (Katy), KI5HC (League City), KE4DRF, W5RH, KB7QL (Rustin, LA), WD5L (T), WA5ANF (T), WB4KTF (Austin). (20 Check-Ins). Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 73, SN = 0, A = 12, K = 4 / Band Rpt: Fair

09/30/20, K5LKJ (NCS), AA5OA (Ft. Smith, AR)(T), W5TKZ, K5LJ, W5VOM, WW5PA (M), KE4DRF, K5TNL (Spring), K5JPP, W5RH, K2MPP, KL7AX (Katy), AB5RJ (Cypress), W5DRB (Brazoria), WD5L (T). (15 Check-Ins). Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 73, SN = 0, A = 18, K = 3 / Band Rpt: Fair

10/07/20, K5LKJ (NCS), K5LJ, W1BG (Katy), W5RH, K2MPP, KL7AX (Katy), WB4KTF (Austin), WW5PA, W5DRB (Brazoria), KF5PHA, W5VOM, W5ALW, K5TNL (Spring), W5TKZ, KB7QL (Rustin, LA), KI5JMK (T), K5PGF, WD5L (T), KG5WDF, W5THC. (20 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 70, SN = 0, A = 5, K = 1 / Band Rpt: Fair

10/14/20, K5LKJ (NCS), K2MPP, AB5RJ (Cypress), KE4DRF, W5ALW, WA5CYI, K5LJ, W5VOM, W5THC, KG5WDF, W5RH, W5TKZ, N5VCX, AA0ST (Dickinson), WA5ANF (T), WD5L (T), W5DRB (Brazoria), N5MTW (Terry, MS), WB4KTF (Austin), W5PDL (Bacliff), W5PKW (Brazoria)(R), AI5OS (Austin), KI4OOL (Eight Mile, AL). (24 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 74, SN = 0, A = 2, K = 0 / Band Rpt: Good

10/21/20, K5LKJ (NCS), K2MPP, K5JPP, K5LJ, KG5WDF, WB4KTF (Austin), KG5ONF (Spring), AB5RJ (Cypress), W5VOM, W5TKZ, W5ALW, WA3GTU (Eustis, FL), KE4DRF, WW5PA, WB4EN (Keystone Heights, FL), W5RH, WD5L (T), WA5ANF (T), W5DRB (Brazoria), K5EQ, K5IZO, KD5JXF (Panama, OK). (22 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 73, SN = 11, A = 10, K = 1 / 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. 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

## 2020 Officers:

President (2020-2021)  
Michael Hardwick, N5VCX  
[n5vcx@att.net](mailto:n5vcx@att.net)

Vice President (2019-2020)  
Mark Janzer K5MGJ  
[k5mgj@yahoo.com](mailto:k5mgj@yahoo.com)

Recording Secretary (2020-2021)  
Jon Noxon KF5TFJ  
[jon@noxon.cc](mailto:jon@noxon.cc)

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

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

2 Year At-Large Board Member A: (2020-2021)  
Rick Hiller, W5RH  
[Rickhillier73@gmail.com](mailto:Rickhillier73@gmail.com)

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

1 Year At Large (2020)  
JP Pritchard, k5JPP  
[jppnews@comcast.net](mailto: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  
Due to COVID-19, as this goes to press, the meeting will be held  
online. Check [www.BVARC.org](http://www.BVARC.org) for more current info.

#### Board of Directors Meeting

The Saturday before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 9:00 AM (For Sept., check  
website)  
Bayland Park Community Center  
Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston.  
Due to COVID-19, as this goes to press, the meeting will be held  
online. Check [www.BVARC.org](http://www.BVARC.org) for more current info.

#### 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.  
The meeting location is open, however please check the  
[www.BVARC.org](http://www.BVARC.org) for 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

SPECIAL NETS during these COVID-19 times:

A breakfast net is held on Saturday mornings and a "Stir Crazy" net  
is held each weekday at noon. Check [www.BVARC.org](http://www.BVARC.org) for current  
info.



#### **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**

**Most of these events have resumed while complying to  
the Social Distancing and Mask requirements. Check  
with the respective entity to see the actual status.**

### SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

IHOP, 7:00a.m., SW Freeway inbound service road,  
near Kirkwood. **This has resumed.** Masks and social  
distancing are required.

### OTHER HAM GROUPS:

#### WEDNESDAYS – WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH

Due to COVID-19, this is currently not taking place.  
When it does, information will be posted in the  
BEACON, and sent to the BVARC Reflector.

#### WEDNESDAYS – AMSAT & QRP GROUP

PAPPAS BARBECUE. 11:30a.m., SW corner  
Westheimer & Gessner. Not meeting now, but some  
show up.



## **Hamfests**

(typically within 200 miles of Houston)

Hamfest info for the next few months. More information at:  
<http://www.ar1.org/hamfests.html#listing>

**01/08/2021 - 01/09/2021**

### **Radio Fiesta 2021**

Location: Schertz, TX  
**CANCELLED**

**03/06/2021**

### **Greater Houston Hamfest**

Location: Rosenberg, TX  
**PENDING**

# 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, because of COVID and scheduling conflicts, 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)

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JP Pritchard, K5JPP, [jppnews@comcast.net](mailto:jppnews@comcast.net); Esther Pritchard, [elop@comcast.net](mailto:elop@comcast.net); Jeff Greer, W5JEF, [greerjw@hotmail.com](mailto:greerjw@hotmail.com)

A special thanks goes to Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, and his wife, Deborah, for assisting the past 2 months.

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**BRAZOS VALLEY  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

**P.O. BOX 2997**

**SUGAR LAND, TX 77487-2997**

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November 12, BVARC Meeting and Elections



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