



# BVARC BEACON



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

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DECEMBER 2020

VOLUME 44 ISSUE 12

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## **BVARC DECEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

For Thursday, December 10th, 2020 there will be an online ZOOM meeting. Presentation will be Tom Vinson -- NY0V "An HF Systems Engineering Approach in the Search for Amelia Earhart's L10E". Program details and NY0V's Bio, on the BVARC web site home page.

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 continue to be held over ZOOM.



## **2021 Greater Houston HamFest Cancelled**

With the current rise in COVID-19 infections over the last few weeks in Texas and the Houston area, the Board of Directors of Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, the sponsor of GHFF, have decided to cancel the 2021 event.

The demographics of the amateur radio community is extremely vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19 and even if the event were held in an outside venue, it could still possibly expose members of the amateur radio community to the virus. With this in mind, the Board of Directors cannot, in good conscious, hold an event that will place anyone in a dangerous position.

The event has been rescheduled for March 4 & 5, 2022 so mark your calendars. Thank you for your understanding.

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX  
President  
Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club



## **BLT-62**

Get a peek preview of next month's article on the incredible journey of BLT-62. As this goes to press, it has almost completed it's 2<sup>nd</sup> trip around the world and still going strong.

Go to: [ab5ss.blogspot.com](http://ab5ss.blogspot.com)

## The Prez Says

As the year ends, everyone at BVARC should think back to the events of the year. This has been a wide ride to say the least. With the COVID-19 virus, hurricanes and the Presidential election, 2020 will definitely be remember as one that we do not want to go through again. Even with the crazy year, we have had some positive successes. The club has done very well on presenting programs through ZOOM that we normally would have not been able to have. The plan is still to continue ZOOM presentations even when our general meetings return to "normal". The positive successes is what makes the club continue to grow and become the largest in Houston. Hopefully in the later part of 2021 we can get back on track with a successful Field Day and in 2022 a successful HamFest.

I want to thank Rick Hiller, W5RH, for a wonderful program and overseeing the elections on November 12th. This is the first time elections have been held on-line and it ran smoothly. With our expert ZOOM operator Jeff Greer, members voted via a "Zoom Poll". The results are as follows:

**VP - Jimmy Vance, NA5D**

**Treasurer - Dave Ely, N5EKW**

**Corresponding Secretary - Jeff Greer, W5JEF**

**Recording Secretary -- Mark McGrath -- N5VCM**

**2 Year At Large - Scott Medbury, KD5FBA**

**1 Year At Large - Sheree Horton, KF5LMJ**

I want to thank everyone of you for stepping up and volunteering to help with the club in 2021. I look forward to working with you when you start on January 1, 2021.

I want to thank Mark Janzer, K5MGJ as VP, JP Pritchard at 1 year At Large director and Jon Noxon, KF5TFJ as recording secretary. I really appreciate the time that you were able to help with the club.

I also want to thank Mark Janzer, K5MGJ, for "volunteering" (I hope the rope burns heal soon) to be the club's new training coordinator. With Mark's direction and the club's new monthly training session at Bayland Community Center, I feel this will help the club to continue to grow.

Don't forget the December meeting with Tom Vinson, NY0V on "An HF Systems Engineering Approach in the Search for Amelia Earhart's L10E".

The BVARC banquet is gearing up fast for Friday January 15, 2021. If you have any questions, please contact me. There is more information in the newsletter on the banquet.

Hope to see everyone at the banquet.

73,N5VCX



### **Richard Hagerman, WB5SRN – SK**

Richard (Dick) Hagerman, WB5SRN passed away on October 18, 2020. He was a life member of Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club and had been a member of the club for many years. He thought highly of BVARC and spoke of it often with his family. Please keep his family in your thoughts.

# 2020 BVARC Awards Banquet

Join us for an evening of fellowship and fun at the BVARC annual banquet. The banquet will be held at the Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet Street, Houston, 77074 on Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 Virus the following will be required for the banquet:

Temperature checks at the door  
Masks will be required during meet & greet and buffet service

The banquet will be held from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Dinner service will start at 7:15 pm and will be buffet style. Cost for the banquet for members and one guest will be \$35 per person. Non-members or a second guest is \$45 dollars per person. Admission will be limited to 60 people. Tickets will be available on the BVARC web site and at the door (cash only) so get your tickets early. Due to regulations at the community center, there will be no alcohol service.

## "Menu for the Evening"

*Pan Seared Catfish or Grilled Chicken Breast*

*Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Sautéed Green Beans*

*Garden Salad w/ Mixed Greens - (Ranch & Italian Salad Dressing)*

*Rolls, Dessert*

*Iced Tea, Bottled Water, Soft Drinks*

The banquet programs will begin at approximately 8:15 pm. There will be a guest speaker (a special surprise) and award presentations.

The banquet is held each year to honor those members of BVARC that have shown outstanding service to the club and to amateur radio. The awards that will be presented are:

**The Loop and Zepp – The promotion of HF radio**

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

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

If know someone that you would like to nominate for an award, please let someone on the board of directors know. All nominations must be in by January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Let's give those who promote various aspects of the hobby the recognition they deserve.

Hope you see everyone at the banquet.

So, mark it on your calendar and come out to the BVARC annual banquet!

## NEW HAMS – NOW WHAT?

Pointing to an article by Rick Hiller, from a few years ago, about what you can do with that new license:

[http://www.bvarc.org/pdf/feb\\_2012.pdf](http://www.bvarc.org/pdf/feb_2012.pdf)

From a conversation, on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, with Kris Bickell, K1BIC, the Lifelong Learning Manager at ARRL HQ, about licensing courses and continuing education related to ham radio. He mentioned, and it's been discussed amongst us BVARCIans, that there is a gap between that proud moment after getting a ham license and actually using it.

Rick's article is a very nice reference, though to update, the ARRL is promoting a new ham periodical "On The Air" and a variety of companion media (podcast, blog, facebook) to help introduce the myriad of facets that are part or partly of Amateur Radio.

<http://www.arrl.org/on-the-air-magazine>

Also, look at the past newsletters (and this one) for JP Pritchard's (K5JPP) recurring column, "Cutting Through the Static"

Meanwhile, BVARC is gearing up for an activities session, once a month in 2021, at the Bayland Park Community Center (where we do testing). The activity session will be on a Saturday morning mid-month, and can be styled to what members, and especially new hams, may want hands on experience with. This might include, soldering, kit building, actual HF on-the-air, contest logging, programming HT's, etc. Let us know your thoughts.



## November 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, November 7th, we had 7 candidates and conducted 10 tests.

### New Licensees:

Bennett, D. (Technician)  
Herrin, T. (Technician)

### Upgrades

KG5BBF (General)  
KI5GGS (General)  
KI5BCE (General)  
KI5LKX (Extra)

Congratulations to all!

A GREAT, **GREAT** thank you to the VEs in attendance – K5GOL, W5DRB, and K5LJ.

The next BVARC test session is Saturday December 5<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 – Looking back at 2020

by Rick Hiller – W5RH

OK, we've all had a crappy year. Not even going to mention why, cause we all know. Paraphrasing the C&W song, "best thing I ever saw was look'n at 2020 in the rear view mirror". But even in crappy times we hams remain true to our hobby in the best ways we can. Thru the internet, Zoom meetings and presentations, You Tube, e-Ham, magazines, repeater nets and other social media platforms we remain informed with the news of club and hobby events, presentations about new antennas, new radios, etc. So, here are my favorite antenna discovery highlights of the year. The Nano VNA, the EFHW -- End Fed (multi-band) Half Wave wire antenna and the horizontally polarized, multi-band vertical antenna.

**The Nano VNA.** This \$ 59 2 port device is everything you wanted in an antenna system tester fit into a box the size of 2 packs of Camels. It measures SWR, return loss, S parameters and more. Gonna take you awhile to figure out how to use it and unless you've been studying about antenna system theory, it is gonna take you an even longer while to understand just what you are measuring, why and what the results mean. But, certainly, all for the good of your Ham Radio journey. Your antennas are a system of transmitter/receiver, transmission line and the antenna (the load). You want them to all dance together like Fred Astair and Ginger Rogers. If they don't, well...that's why you bought the NanoVNA H4. See [QST May 2020 Product Review](#) and purchase it at R and L Electronics. A nice video on this device by Alan, W2AEW, is at <https://vimeo.com/481077181>

**EFHW** – Steve Ellington, N4LQ, highlights a delightfully easy to build multi-band antenna. Multiband in that it works its' fundamental band, 80 or 40, plus all of the other HF ham bands without a tuner, all at pretty efficient levels. If you can fit it in your yard as a horizontal wire or a V or L, you are one lucky op. Tons of info is on the internet at You Tube and other club and ham sites. Theory, construction and deployment are all covered. Easily done, all for the cost of a nice Red Lobster meal with desert. Google "**Steve N4LQ EFHW**".

**Horizontally polarized vertically oriented multi-band antenna.** John Portune, W6NBC, implemented a vertical loop with a ATU at the base. Check out QST July 2019 for his original article. So, why 2020? Because he gave an upgraded presentation to the NARS group a few months back about a "double loop/slot" implementation. It is a great way to get directional, multi-band, horizontally polarized radiation, albeit a bit pricey when fully implemented with mast and automatic ATU at the base. I do disagree with the "slot antenna path" to his loop solution. I wrote about this in the Radio Hotel column for October 2020 (that, mistakenly, never got published). I show that his newly proposed antenna is really a slight modification of the full wave loop, as written about in various publications back in the 70's and 80's. Still, his loop is a nice, vertical way to get multiple bands with gain and directionality. [Note: That lost Radio Hotel column can be found here: "The Path to Radial-less Verticals" <http://www.bvarc.org/Tech/October2020.pdf> ]

Two other personal highlights of my year were 1) the fact that two good friends bought Flex Radios and allowed me to be a part of their discovery and excitement; and 2) another good friend, and refreshed ham newby, got his antenna situation sorted out, got his amplifier working properly and he bought a new Kenwood TS-890. All are very lucky dogs in my book. New rigs mean new destinations. I'm envious here, but certainly not jealous, as I am pleased that they have kept the economy going and allowed me to participate in their set-up, due diligence and in-depth discovery of these new radios and stations. Thanks guys.

Oh, one last thing: no matter what your poison, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and, certainly, a very happy, prosperous, healthy and fruitful New Year. I hope you are visited by Santa C and his Band of 8.

Enjoy your hobby.....73...Rick – W5RH

# Cutting Through the Static – When the Static is the Problem

A recent post to the BVARC reflector was a summary of some scientists of the cosmos whose research leads them to believe Solar Cycle 25, which has gotten started, will provide a very low number of sun spots and thus very low magnetic activity from the Sun. For someone relatively new to ham radio, it came as a serious disappointment.

I responded thusly: ...”What a ridiculously horrible time to become a ham, after hearing all the glory days stories from veteran hams, when a gutter on the side of your house would work pretty well as an antenna, just as propagation fades to near black. Oh well...”

And like the truly great Elmer (and friend) he is, Rick Hiller W5RH, came back with a post full of great information and encouragement. Here is his response. Read it and smile with me.

“I think it might be a reasonable cycle 25, just have to wait a few years to get to the great parts. But in the meantime the equinox boost happens twice a year, as does the low band boost in the winter time. I suggest that you constantly monitor the spots and the Sun's daily numbers as they tend to be on a monthly cycle, so a good series of days in November might be a good series in December.

I came up with this station rating system a few years back:.

Tier 1 Stations: Elevated Gain antennas, stacked rotatable, separate receive antennas. Amplifiers. Low noise environment.

Tier 2 Station: Gain antennas below 1/2 wl, rotatable, Basic wire low band antennas. Amplifier. Medium noise environment.

Tier 3 Station: No gain antennas, fixed wire antennas close to the ground. Xmit is receive antenna. No amp and maybe QRP. Medium to high noise environment

I've never been a Tier 1. I have been a Tier 2 with amplifier and I am now a Tier 3. What a difference it makes in the low Sun Spot numbers time between the Tiers. Although there are times when a Tier 1 station has trouble getting through to another Tier 1. Tier 3 stations always have the short end of the stick, so to speak.

**On the Air at...“The Right Time” by Steve Ireland, VK6VZ** It is excellent information for those of us new or old Hams who wish to work HF. There is always something to be learned about shortwave propagation that will add to our on air enjoyment.

Quite a lot of licensed radio amateurs or shortwave listeners operate on the shortwave bands without much thought as to what directions signal are coming from or going to. A lot of us have only a few hours available each week to pursue our hobby and simply switch on and take the chance to work whatever we are hearing on the radio at that particular time. This method is rather hit and miss and can lead to disappointment.

If you are, primarily, a daytime radio operator, the upper shortwave bands can be lots of fun, for DX, during the local winter period. But, during summer, are often only open for intra-continental traffic, particularly during years of low sunspot activity. Similarly, those who are night owls can find the upper shortwave bands lots of fun during the summer, but pretty dead in the winter, especially, once again, when there are few sunspots.

There is another important, even more obvious, propagation pattern to be aware of – obvious even to someone who has only listened on the shortwave bands for a few weeks. As a rule of thumb, those bands below 10 MHz come alive during the hours of darkness, while those above 10 MHz are best during daylight.

There are only two periods of the day when DX is regularly heard or worked on both the low and high HF bands, at any time of the year and at (almost) any phase of the sunspot cycle. Yes, you guessed it – at around your local sunrise and sunset.

If there are only a few hours each week that you can get on the air, making it around these times is going to bring you the most interesting DX results all year round.

After being on the air for almost thirty years, I can tell you that the vast majority of my radio activity is the periods before, during and just after sunrise or sunset -- in the time when propagation is often termed “Grey Line”. (end) VK6VZ”

73, JP, K5JPP

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

November 7, 2020, 9:00 AM  
Via Videoconference

Members Present:

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX  
(President)

Mark Janzer, K5MGJ  
(Vice President)

Scott Medbury, KD5FBA  
2 Year At-Large-Member

JP Pritchard, K5JPP  
1 Year At-Large-Member

Recorded by Mike Hardwick, N5VCX – President

1. Call to Order: The President called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM.
2. Establishment of a Quorum: A business quorum was established with 4 members present.
3. Approval of Agenda: No agenda was presented. Agenda was determined from past meetings.
4. Club President's Opening Statement: The President thanked those in attendance for taking time to join the meeting
5. Emergency Business: None
6. Approval of last month's minutes: Approved with motion from Janzer & Medbury second. No discussion.
7. Approval of Treasurer's Report: Not received in time for meeting. Tabled to December's meeting.
8. Corresponding Secretary's Report: Not present. Tabled to December's meeting.
9. Recording Secretary's Report: Not present. Tabled to December's meeting.
10. Old Business:
  - a. Warehouse moved still planned to end cost. Should be completed by Hardwick by 12-30-2020.
  - b. November general meeting program will be Rick Hiller, W5RH. Program on Baluns, Chokes.
  - c. December general meeting program will be program on locating Amelia Earhart by Radio. Confirmed by Janzer.
  - d. January general meeting program to be CenterPoint Power Line safety and RFI. Maybe in-person outdoor meeting in parking lot. Location TBD.
  - e. February general meeting program is undetermined at this time.
  - f. Annual Banquet to be same as 2020 on location, format, and possible menu. Will limit guests to 60. Guests will be spread out through entire room for separation. Masks will be required up to eating time. Hand sanitizing stations will be available. Schedule for January 15, 2021 at Bayland Community Center.
  - g. MSWE will have work party in November. Dates not set. Will be held in November or December. Check with Janzer for more information.
  - h. Possible meeting topic for February presented by Medbury on contesting. He will check and confirm for December meeting.
11. New Business:
  - a. November 20, 2020 is deadline on FCC pricing schedule change. Comments needed ASAP.
  - b. Greater Houston HamFest cancelled due to increase of COVID infections. Vote taken with four NO's on holding event. Will be published in newsletter and sent to ARRL.
  - c. Vote taken to increase BOD pay by 100%. Vote taken and approved.
12. Motion to adjourn made by Pritchard and seconded by Medbury. No discussion. Adjourned at 9:43 AM.



## With New Year Come New Dates and A New Program

Each year BVARC has various meeting dates that are scheduled at different locations. This new year, 2021, is no different. In an effort to make sure club members are aware of the dates, this article is being published as well as being posted on the web. So, mark your 2021 calendar to stay up to date.

### Board of Directors Meeting

**Saturday 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM**

**(Meetings will be held via ZOOM unless notified otherwise)**

1-9-2021	2-6-2021	3-6-2021	4-10-2021	5-8-2021	6-12-2021
7-10-2021	8-7-2021	9-11-2021	10-9-2021	11-6-2021	12-4-2021

### VE Testing

**Saturday 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM – Bayland Community Center**

**Testing will be held in Person – Mask Required (unless notified otherwise)**

**Must contact Mark Janzer to Schedule**

1-9-2021	2-6-2021	3-6-2021	4-10-2021	5-8-2021	6-12-2021
7-10-2021	8-7-2021	9-11-2021	10-9-2021	11-6-2021	12-4-2021

### General Meeting

**Thursday 7:00 PM to 9:00 pm**

**(Meetings will be held via ZOOM unless notified otherwise)**

(new)

<b>1-14-2021</b>	2-11-2021	3-11-2021	4-15-2021	5-13-2021	6-10-2021
7-8-2021	8-12-2021	9-9-2021	10-14-2021	11-11-2021	12-9-2021

### New for 2021

In an attempt further amateur radio for hams and non-hams alike, BVARC now has a two-hour training time scheduled for anyone that would like to have classes, equipment builds or anything you can think of. If you would like to hold a session, contact Mark Janzer to schedule.

### BVARC Training and Education – Open to All Members and Non-Members

**Saturday 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM Bayland Community Center**

**Mask Required (unless notified otherwise)**

**Must contact Mark Janzer to Schedule**

1-23-2021	2-20-2021	3-20-2021	4-24-2021	5-22-2021	6-26-2021
7-24-2021	8-21-2021	9-25-2021	10-23-2021	11-20-2021	12-18-2021

Where is the World are the . . .  
Scattered Islands (FT)  
Part 1

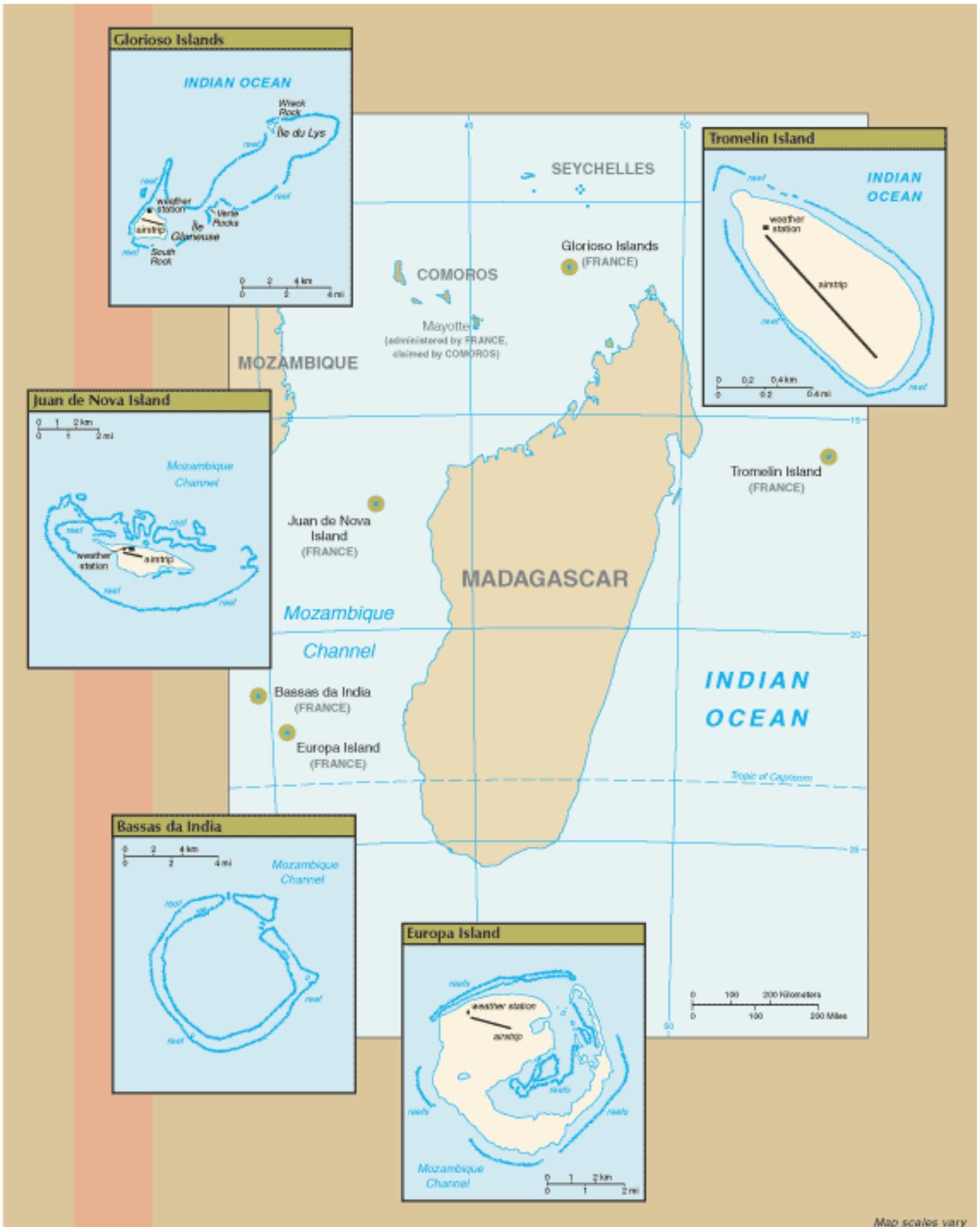


Figure 1 Map Courtesy CIA World Fact Book



The French Scattered Islands (Iles Eparses) are groups of small rocks in the Indian Ocean. They are literally scattered around the island of Madagascar; some in the Mozambique Channel and some East of that island. Most of them are just rocks. They are administered by the French TAAF (Terres Australes et Antartiques Francaises). Translated, that is French Southern and Antarctic Lands. Some of these lands are uninhabited, others have temporary occupants for a few months of the year. The climate of these islands ranges from tropical to Sub-Antarctic. In Part 1, we will look at the tropical islands

All these islands are considered French territory and where inhabited the currency is the Euro. In the Indian Ocean, France is significantly involved. It exercises sovereignty over these small island entities and consequently claims a vast economic exclusive zone.

**Tromelin Island (FT#T), IOTA AF-031 Northeast of Madagascar.** The island was discovered by France in 1720s. It was recorded by the French navigator Jean Marie Briand. He named it “*Île des Sables*” (‘Isle of Sand’). The island was later named for Jacques Marie Boudin de Tromelin, a captain the French navy. He arrived at the island in November 1776 and rescued eight stranded slaves who had been on the island for 15 years. The whole island has an area of 200 acres, about the size of a small Texas ranch. It is poorly developed due to a lack of fresh water. Except for two or three months summer, this flat island is swept day and night by heavy winds that are sustained in winter. In addition to France, the island of Mauritius also claims sovereignty.



of  
in



Just north of Madagascar are the **Glorioso Islands (FT#G), IOTA AF-011**. A French possession since 1802, it consists of two tropical coral islands (*Ile Glorieuse* and *Ile du Lys*) and three rock islets. A military garrison operates a weather and radio station garrisoned by troops of the French Foreign Legion on *Ile Glorieuse*. The terrain is flat, varying in height from sea level to 39 feet. *Île de Lys* is a nesting ground for [migratory seabirds](#), and [turtles](#) lay eggs on the beaches.. The Gloriosos are also claimed by Madagascar, The Seychelles and the Comoros. The *Glorieuse* were named in 1880 by Hippolyte Caltaux, who

established a coconut plantation. In 1895, the Glorioso Islands became a part of the colony of Mayotte (another island in the Mozambique channel but not part of the scattered islands. The islands are today nature reserves.

Off the southwest coast of Madagascar lies **Europa (FT#E), IOTA AF-009**, only 11 Sq. miles in area. It is a low-lying tropical atoll in the Mozambique Channel, about a third of the way from southern Madagascar to southern Mozambique. The island had never been inhabited until 1820 when a French family moved to it. The island officially became a possession of France in 1897. The island has a weather station and is visited by scientists. While the island has probably been sighted by navigators since at least the 16th century, it takes its name from the British ship *Europa*, which visited it in December 1774. Ruins and graves on Europa island attest to several attempts at settlement from the 1860s to the 1920s. The island is a



nature reserve. While there are no harbors, the island has an airstrip. Madagascar also claims sovereignty over Europa.



**Basses di India (FT#E) IOTA AF-034** is an uninhabited, roughly circular atoll about halfway between Mozambique and Madagascar northwest of Europa Island. The atoll consists of ten barren rocky islets, with no vegetation, totaling 49 acres in area. The reef, whose coastline measures 21.9 mi, is completely covered by the sea from three hours before high tide to three hours afterward. The region is also

subject to cyclones, making the atoll a long-time maritime hazard and the site of numerous shipwrecks. The Basses da India was first recorded by Portuguese explorers in the early sixteenth century. When the Portuguese ship that discovered the atoll by running aground on it in 1506.

### Juan de Nova (FT#J)

**IOTA AF-012** is a [nature reserve](#) surrounded by reefs which enclose an area of roughly 15 sq mi.

Forests cover about half the island. [Sea turtles](#) nest on the beaches around the island. [Juan de Nova](#), a Spanish admiral in the



service of Portugal, came across the island in 1501. The island had never been inhabited when it became a possession of France in 1897. [Guano](#) deposits were exploited from the start of the 20th century until 1970. The island was abandoned during [World War II](#), and was visited by German submariners. Installations, including a hangar, rail lines, houses and a jetty are in ruins. The island lies on the sea route between South Africa and the northern tip of Madagascar. It is affected by strong currents and has become the site of numerous wrecks. Most visible are the remains of the [SS Tottenham](#) which ran onto the southern reef in 1911. The island was the destination of a DXpedition in March 2016 with the Callsign FT4JA. Nearby Madagascar claims sovereignty over the island since 1972.

### Rank on Club Log Most Wanted DXCC List

DX Entity	Rank
Juan de Nova	40
Europa	40
Gloriosos	11
Tromelin	28

Basses di India was removed from the DXCC List in the 1950's because the atoll is mostly underwater, except at low tide.

**Reporting from the Dark Side,  
Ron Litt, K5HM**

# 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)

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

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AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
P.O. BOX 2997**

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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

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December 10, BVARC General Membership Meeting



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