



BVARC BEACON

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



APRIL 2021

VOLUME 45 ISSUE 4

BVARC April 8 General Membership Meeting

The featured speaker will be Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW, the new ARRL Director of Emergency Management. Paul will tell us on what the ARRL is doing on interfacing between ham radio and public safety agencies.

This will be an on-line meeting via Zoom. The proper links will be posted on The BVARC Reflector a few days before the meeting.



March General Membership Meeting Recap

The March General Meeting was held online via Zoom. The featured presenter was John Stratton, N5AUS, ARRL West Gulf Division Director. He presented an update of what ARRL has been doing and some plans for the near future. When any of you are in touch with him, be sure to give him a “thank you” and express your appreciation.



The Prez Says

Due to a death in the family, this article is not available. Look for it to return next month.



Editor's Note:

Due to some inconsistencies in some formatting as received from several BEACON Article Contributors, some reformatting and point size changes were made to various articles to be able to include them in this edition. Also, this resulted in the placement of some articles which are not the preferred arrangement. The editor will endeavor to rectify this by the next issue.

March 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, March 6th, **we had 24 candidates and conducted 39 tests.**

New Licensees:

M. Raval (Technician)
R. Wingo (Technician)
W. Tait (Technician)
J. Spelts (Technician)
S. Olsen (Technician)
J. Morgan (Technician)
J. Barnes (Technician)
T. Hager (General)
E. Weder (**Extra***)
G. North (Technician)
J. Middlebrook (Technician)
D. Iblings (Technician)

K. Buras (Technician)
T. Learn (General)
J. Taylor (Technician)

Upgrades:

D. Creacy KI5NOX (General)
B. Rodgers N1BJR (General)
S. Bulkley KI5NPL (General)
Z. Freeman W3UNC (General)
W. Vestal KF5QMK (General)

Congratulations to all!

*From time to time, a candidate walks in, has no license, and walks out having passed all three exams in one sitting, earning an Extra class license. Congrats E. Weder!

A GREAT, **GREAT** thank you to the VEs in attendance – K5GOL, K5LER, W5JAZ and K5LJ.

The next BVARC test session is Saturday April 10th, at 10:30am. **The testing fee is still \$15.** The date which this will change to \$15 test and \$35 license fee (totaling \$50), has not yet been determined, but is expected sometime this summer. Our current understanding is that VEs will collect \$15 at the test session and the \$35 fee will be collected directly by the FCC.

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/

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



MINUTES
Board of Directors Meeting
Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

March 6, 2021 9:00 AM

Via Videoconference

Members Present:

Mike Hardwick N5VCX (President)	Michael Monsour AC0TX (Quartermaster)	Rick Hiller W5RH (2 yr at large director)
Jimmy Vance NA5D (Vice President)	Scott Medbury KD5FBA (2 yr at large director)	Roy Storey W5TKZ
John Chauvin K5IZO (Parliamentarian)	Jeff Greer W5JEF (Cor. Secretary)	Ron Litt K5HM
		Chris Luppens KG5BBF
		David Mehl KI5KNR

Recorded by Mark McGrath N5VCM Recording Secretary

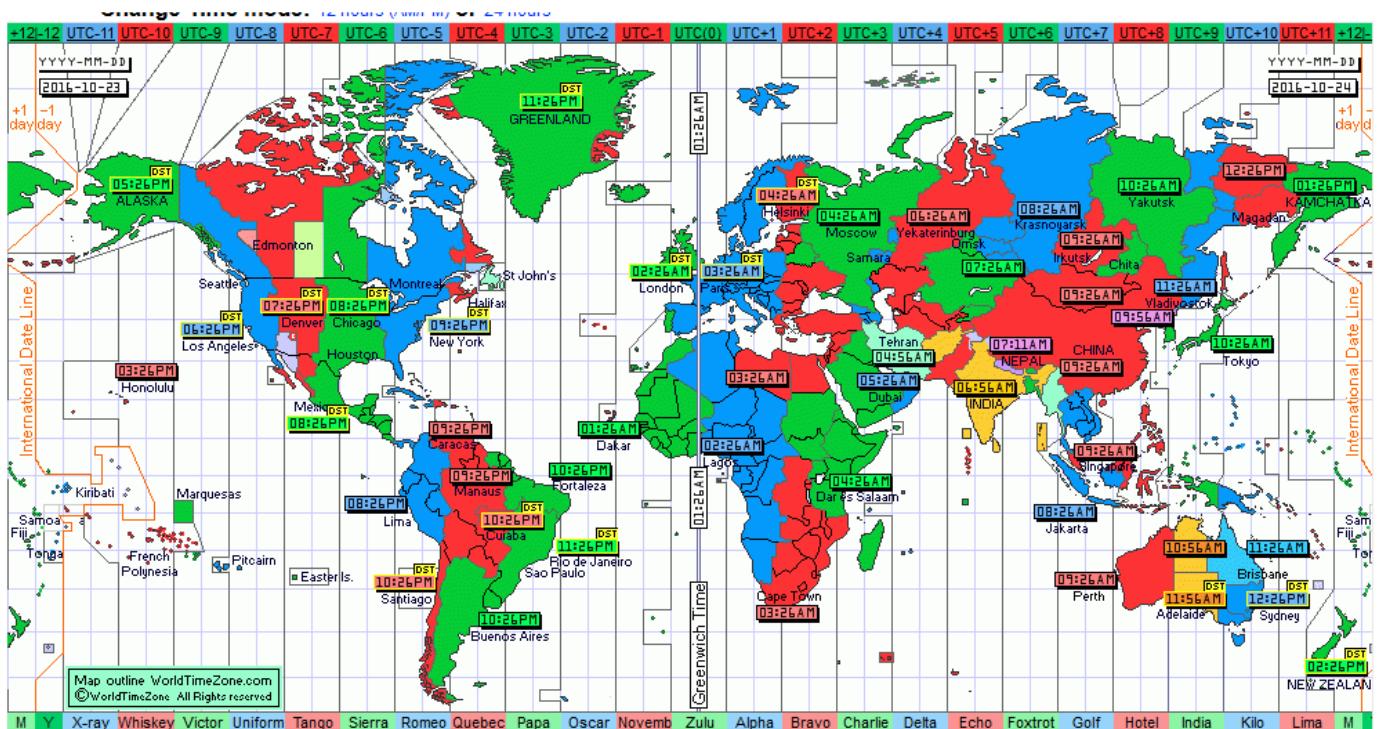
1. **Call to Order:** The President called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM
2. **Establishment of a Quorum:** A business quorum of Board Members was established.
3. **Club President's Opening Statement:** The President thanked those in attendance for taking the time to join the meeting.
4. **Approval of Agenda:** The Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.
5. **Emergency Business:** No emergency business.
6. **Approval of Minutes** The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as presented..
7. **Approval of Treasurer's Report:** Approved as presented. Discussion of newsletter costs with further research to be performed.
8. **Corresponding Secretary:** PO Box renewed. Clean up of club roster in process.
9. **Old Business:**
 - Warehouse lease extended 5 months.
 - Upcoming general membership meetings:
 - March – ARRL update
 - April – ARRL EMC
10. **New Business:**
 - May meeting – No solid program yet. Possible topics discussed.
 - Face to face meetings. No solid plan to return to them at this time.
 - Field day. No plans for in person event at this time.
 - 2 meter Simplex Net. Board was asked by Mark Brantana, N5PRD for the Club to sponsor this net. The board was receptive to this idea. However, concerns were raised about getting a better organized net in place. The President will get with Mark as to how to get this done. No action taken at this time. The concept will be discussed further at the BOD next meeting.
 - Tower Tailer. The president and vice president presented a proposal for the club to buy a tower trailer for use at field day, museum ships weekend and other events. After discussion, the majority of the board authorized the purchase. Of the 7 BOD members present, 6 voted in favor with 1 opposed.
11. **Next BoD Meeting Date:** April 10, 2021
12. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:20 AM



Where in the World is . . . The Right Time?

Time is very important to every ham. It can be the difference between a good QSO and a busted one; the last contact for honor roll or not; a win or a loss in the CQ WW. Yet I suspect few of us give it much thought. As a new ham in 1954, I used to keep my paper log using local time and an alarm clock my old man discarded. When I came back to ham radio in 2009, most computer logging programs used UTC time.

That took some getting used too. We all know that UTC time is either five or six hours ahead of our local time, depending on Daylight Savings Time but what is UTC anyway? UTC or Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) is the basis for civil time today. No, the letters don't line up in French either, where it is known as *Temps Universel Coordonné*. It is still referred to as **UTC**.



Universal Time (UT) was created at the International Meridian Conference in 1884, attended by 26 nations. This is the basis for the 24-hour time zone system we know today. At the time, Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) was chosen as the world's time standard. For most, UTC is considered interchangeable with GMT. UTC Time is generally observed by nations along the Prime Meridian, a line running roughly from North to South along the zero-degree longitude line. I say "generally" observed because there is no international treaty about time zones. Each nation is free to observe whatever time standard they choose. For example, on the Korean peninsula, Korea Standard Time (KST) UTC +9 is observed by South Korea. Pyongyang Time (UTC+ 8:30) is observed by the folks in P5 land.

UTC, referred to as Zulu Time, used by the military community and refers to the zone along the Zero Longitude line. Traveling east, the world is divided into 25 time zones time zones labeled Alpha (UTC+1), Bravo (UTC+2) , Charlie (UTC+3) each with a positive offset to UTC, skipping Juliet for some reason, and continuing until it runs smack into . . . wait for it . . . The International Date Line.

Mike time (UTC+12) is the last zone before the Date Line. The next time zone east of Mike is Yankee time (UTC-12). What??? Yes, Virginia, you just crossed the International Date Line and gained a day traveling east. East of the date line, the time zones have a negative offset and begin with Yankee(UTC-12), X-ray(UTC-11), Whiskey(UTC-10). They continue

east through Texas, where it is mostly Sierra Time (UTC-6), except in El Paso (Tango Time, UTC-7) and during Daylight Saving Time. At last running into Zulu time again.

The International Date Line. No, it is not a yellow line drawn on the water of the Pacific Ocean. To have a global time zone system, the day and date must be separated at *two* locations — you can't split a circle into two parts with a single "cut." The solution was provided by the International Meridian Conference.

The IMC selected the 180-degree meridian as the other "cut," not because it was directly opposite the Prime Meridian. 180 degrees was chosen because it runs mostly through open ocean in the central Pacific, zigging and zagging to keep nearby nations on their own day and date. So the choice of 180 degrees was arbitrary, but it established the International Date Line in use today.

Although the line starts out in the middle of its UTC±12 time zone at the North Pole—exactly at longitude 180 degrees — for most of its length as you go South, it shifts to the east and coincides with the eastern edge of its time zone, which also zigs and zags.

This accommodation keeps the island nations of Oceania each



on their own clock and calendar. But there are exceptions. Tonga preferred to be at UTC+13 (or UTC-11) for reasons of commerce and convenience. Samoa, originally in the UTC-11 time zone, in 2011 "gerrymandered" their time-zone borders to place them in UTC+12. The Chatham Islands sets their clocks at UTC+12.75, creating an "orphan" time zone inside UTC+12. Fractional time zones are used in 16 locations around the globe. Countries simply choose what works best for them.

In Antarctica where all the time zones converge, there is no official time zone. Most of the residents choose to handle their time zone problem in

the most convenient way. Some research stations follow the time zone of their home country. Others, like the McMurdo and Palmer stations, both run by the US, synchronize their time to the closest point in the inhabited world.

McMurdo for instance, follows the same time as Christchurch, New Zealand, since most visitors and researchers to the station use Christchurch as their point of embarkation to Antarctica. Palmer Station on the other hand, follows Chilean time. Other research stations tend to follow UTC.

The Radio Hotel – NEC and The Smith Chart

Rick Hiller – W5RH

Some of us know people who have done great things for the world around us and in particular great things in the world of ham radio. Rarely, IMHO, do we show our appreciation for what they have done. (Hopefully you have). I'd like to try and set things right, just a bit, in the Ham Radio world of antennas.

NEC -- The Numerical Electromagnetic Code was developed by Gerald Burke, Alan Poggio and Earl Miller who wrote the NEC/MOM family of programs at Lawrence Livermore Labs in 1981, under contract to the US Navy. NEC2 was later released to the public and is now available on most computing platforms. Hams take advantage of this NEC code by using EZNEC, MMANA or the 4NEC2 antenna modeling programs.

The 3 authors gave a presentation at the 2004 IEEE AP-S International Symposium – “NEC – A Brief History”. Find a copy of this NEC history on the BVARC Tech-pages:

<http://bvarc.org/home/tech-pages/> Thank you Eddie!

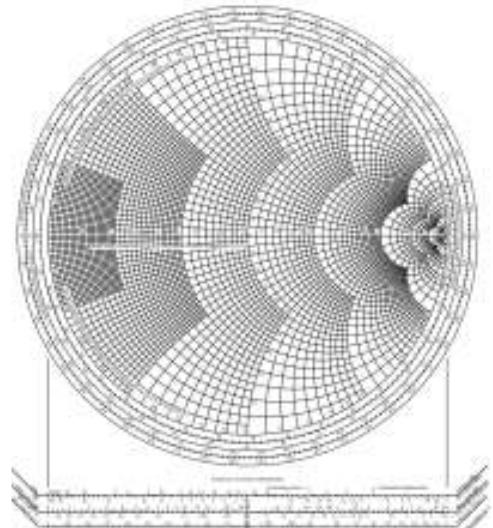
Please note that Jerry Burke, the primary author of the antenna-modeling software NEC, died this year on February 14. He had been suffering from cancer. NEC (Numerical Electromagnetics Code) evolved out of a program called BRACT, which Burke and others developed in 1967. The most common public version is NEC-2. Thank you Jerry Burke!

If you are interested, more NEC information can be had at <https://www.nec2.org/>

The Smith Chart

It was invented by [Phillip H. Smith](#) and T. Mizuhashi. It's a graphical calculator and [nomogram](#) designed for engineers and hams that specialize in [radio frequency](#) (RF) [transmission lines](#) and [matching](#) circuits. Yes, looking like a spider created it after doing acid, it was a marvelous tool to help solve transmission line matching problems, etc. What enabled Smith and Mizuhashi to do this is the fact that transmission lines, impedances and matching are simply an exercise in circular mathematics. And, if you can describe it in an equation you can graph it and you can even write software to make a tool for the rest of us.

Thank you, Phillip!



And write software someone did. **Sim Smith**, a [free](#) product of Ward Harriman, AE6TY, combines the calculating and graphics power of a PC to create a very complex, but straight forward to use tool to solve your antenna matching problems. It allows you to concentrate on solving your antenna matching problem and not on the math behind the complicated calculations.

The March 18th meeting of the Texas DX Society included a comprehensive presentation about Sim Smith by Robie Elms, AJ4F. Go to <http://www.tdxs.net/> and find the **TDXS Meeting Videos -- March 18th Meeting**. It is a 1 hour 59 minute You Tube video of the Zoom meeting. If the Smith Chart, impedance matching and transmission lines grab your fancy, you will thoroughly enjoy Robie's presentation.

Cutting Through the Static

A Column for Ham Newbies and Everyone Else

Keeping it simple is not the same as operating in simplex mode, and one member of BVARC has been exploring the complexities of that idea. Mark Brantana, N5PRD, saw a problem that needed solving when the 146.940 repeater lost power during the “big freeze.” Mark sometimes helps out with net control on the noon time BVARC stir crazy net and the repeater’s loss drove home the point that public service operations on VHF would be severely curtailed if a repeater outage were to occur during an emergency. Certainly, the folks involved with ARES and RACES have had to sort through the same problem since many of their first-line operations are facilitated by VHF repeaters, (though they can and do switch to HF during emergency operations.)

To be sure, the BVARC Stir Crazy net was never intended to be an emergency net, unless you consider keeping locked down hams from going a little crazy during the pandemic to be an emergency. But Mark sees Stir Crazy and BVARC's Monday night net to be potential backup traffic channels during emergencies. So, what to do?

One answer is operating in simplex. If you've forgotten, simplex means taking the repeater out of the loop. It's radio to radio, no intermediary, no up and down frequencies. But because communications on VHF and UHF frequencies are limited by line of sight, once that signal hits the horizon, it's likely gone looking for a response from a ham operating from a planetary system, light years from here.

Mark is an engineer, so he put his analytic skills to start working out a relay system to keep those too far away from net control to be heard or to hear on simplex, yet able to remain in the loop. That effort is still in development, but you can see some of what they've learned by going to the BVARC list server and searching for Mark's posts.

Common VHF/UHF FM Simplex Frequencies

2-Meter Band	1.25-Meter Band
146.52*	223.42
146.535	223.44
146.55	223.46
146.565	223.48
146.58	223.50*
146.595	223.52
147.42	
147.435	
147.45	70-cm Band
147.465	446.0*
147.48	
147.495	
147.51	33-cm Band
147.525	906.5*
147.54	
147.555	
147.57	23-cm Band
147.585	1294.000
	1294.025
	1294.500*
	Every 25
	kHz to
	1295

One thing everyone participating in the exercise has learned is that we hams are here to operate in public service when called to do so. And it emphasizes that we need to know how to set our transceivers to simplex mode. If you don't know how, you'll probably have to go the manual for your radio and look it up. It might very well come in handy sometime.

And if you'd like to try it out by participating in Mark's simplex experiments, watch the BVARC list server for future exercises, or connect with a buddy to try simplex communications on your own. Here's a list of simplex frequencies to use, so you don't interfere with other people's repeater operations.

If you have a Cutting Through Static column idea, please drop me a line. I'd be glad to explore it with you. In the meantime, if you're new to ham radio and not yet on the air, set a goal for yourself and get going. Your on-air skills will improve with practice, and you'll soon feel right at home there.

Helpful Operational Guidelines for The Simplex Net

Using your Baofang with a rubber duck antenna, standing in your back yard, trying to work the simplex net on 2 meters is just not going to cut the mustard. So how can you improve your situation in order to participate in the new 2 meter Simplex Net?

You can improve your situation by doing one, two or all of the following -- increase antenna height, increase antenna gain and increase power out. It does not take a certain antenna type to work the simplex net. Any vertical or Yagi, if you are so lucky to have one, will do the job.

Antenna Height

What it does take is the understanding of radio wave properties at the VHF range and how best to capture them and broadcast them. Here in the Houston area most of the land mass is covered in houses. And most of the houses are single story houses surrounded by trees of 30 to 40 feet in height. Yes, of course there are some 2 story houses and some trees that are taller, and yes there are large skyscraper type buildings, but they are clustered in certain areas. Now think about the VHF wave traveling in essentially "line of sight". The reason the repeater works so well is that the radio antennas at your house or car can "see" the repeater antennas up there at 850 feet down south of town. The "radio horizon" at 850 feet is about 40 miles. Of course, signal attenuation does come into play at these distances. So what is your RH -- radio horizon?

You can easily see your RH by visiting one of the on line calculators:

Visit <https://www.qsl.net/w4sat/horizon.htm>

i.e. Mast height / Radio Horizon miles = 10'/4.3 miles 20'/6.3m 30'/7.5m 40'/8.8m 50'/10m

This is "your" RH. Remember that the other station also has a RH of its' own. These 2 RH's are beneficially additive. My suggestion for you if you live single story house with 35 to 40 foot trees is to get your VHF antenna up at the 30 to 40 foot level, so that it can see an additive radio horizon of possibly 16 miles. Quite reasonable.

One caveat of a higher antenna is that the higher the antenna the longer coaxial run from the radio. Longer runs mean more feedline loss. So using a lower loss (higher priced) coax will mean more power to the antenna and less attenuation of received signals. Do some on-line research of coaxial cable types and loss at VHF, etc. A whole world of new information and guidance stands at your door step.

Antenna Gain

Have a read of the ARRL Antenna Handbook and the section on VHF operation and antennas. It might enlighten you as to what you need to do with your antenna. Gain can be had using a properly configured vertical with stacked and phased elements -- i.e. Ringo Ranger 5/8th wl phased over 5/8th wl. Gain can also be had by using a Yagi-Uda array. 3, 4 or 5 elements can provide that needed edge, although a parasitic array is very directional and could be dis-advantageous when trying to work stations all over the country and beyond in all directions...unless you have a rotator.

Increased Power Out

This is a no brainer. Adding a linear or using a higher power output radio is an easy fix to being heard. However, you don't want to become an "alligator" – a large amount of talk power, but minimal receive capability.

2 items of operational note: Communication is maximized when the antenna polarization of all stations is the same. Vertical is the chosen orientation to match the repeater polarization and mobile antenna polarization. There can be 3dB, or more, signal strength loss when conflicting polarizations occur. Also, open up your squelch so you hear the band. Most signals on simplex are not going to be as strong as the repeater at full quieting. Good luck, good operating and great success to the group running simplex. Long may you run. 73....W5RH

Monday Night NCS's – A Thank You for a Job Well Done

"QST, QST, QST -- this is Dwayne, KB5YTA with the BVARC Monday Night Net....." It happens each Monday night at 8PM. Robert's 146.94 repeater is a buzz of activity controlled by the volunteer Net Control Stations or NCS's. First Monday is Dwayne KB5YTA, second is Dave N5EKW, third is Clint KE5HDF and the fourth Monday is Terry K5PGF, with Terry also doing the fifth Monday if one should occur. This monthly rota is something you can rely on.

Most of the NCS's have been doing this for quite a few years, rarely missing the opportunity to give back to the club and provide a watering hole for our members and others that tune in. Thank you to you all – Dwayne, Dave, Clint and Terry.

For the listener – please tune into the net for an announcement of club activity. Discuss the topic of the week, announced by the NCS. Ask a question about Ham Radio operation, BVARC VE Testing sessions or anything relating to Ham Radio gear or theory. Or, just check-in to get on the air in some small way and warm up those finals.

Don't forget to tell the NCS you appreciate what they do. I have heard many times "thanks for running the net". I am sure that these words are appreciated by the NCS and also by the club members in attendance. These words can't be said enough.

Please note: We are always looking for additional folks to step up and be a NCS for a week or take over one of the blank slots due to a vacation. You can contact any of the current NCS's or me, as Monday Night Net Czar. I do a bit of NCS coordination when needed, which is rare, but I am always in the background. TNX ES 73.

Rick W5RH – rickhiller73@gmail.com or 832-474-3713

AREA CLUB TESTING SESSION SCHEDULE

BVARC – 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, k5mjj@yahoo.com

KATY ARS - www.katyars.com

Testing - Typically on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 9:30am at the Westlake VFD, 19636 Saums Rd. Houston, contact Gerald Doucet, 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

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

Testing – Typically the 4th 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 or vec@w5nc.net

Harris County Emergency Management (HCOHSEM)

Testing - Typically the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm, Transtar 6922 Katy Rd., Houston, contact Franz Laugerman, franzlaugerman@sbcglobal.net

The Feed Point

BVARC Members, How We Got Here
Featuring David Ely, N5EKW

Like many of us who came of age in the 1960s, my earliest memory of my love affair with radio was listening WING, the local AM broadcast station in Dayton, Ohio. My older brother and I usually fell asleep to the glow of the vacuum tubes though the cream-colored plastic cabinet of the GE clock radio that sat on the nightstand between our beds.

My childhood best friend's father was a electrical engineer at Wright Patterson AFB and presented us with a set of Knight Kit 100mw walkie-talkies and a basic soldering set. He sat us down at the kitchen table and taught us basic assembly and soldering skills. I was so thrilled that I was able to put it together and make it work that I presented it at my 6th Grade Science Fair. I've been a builder ever since.

While attending The Ohio State University, I worked part-time at Radio Shack when CB was all the rage. It seemed like everyone, including myself, had a CB radio in their car. I also spent time at a low power radio station. I used my middle name to create my radio identity as Dave Allan. Nobody was paid and there was no defined format. We just did it for the love of being on the air and it was a lot of fun. We played a lot of Frank Zappa and Firesign Theater material. Fortunately, the FCC wasn't paying much attention.

As luck would have it, my neighbor in Columbus, Ohio was John Ruble, W8KOJ. He was active with the local RACES unit. He noticed the CB antenna on my car and asked if I was interested in ham radio. After a tour of his shack, I accepted his invitation to the next RACES meeting. I soon signed up for a class to get my Novice license. I upgraded to Tech 1978 and when I moved to Texas in 1980, I was issued my present call sign; N5EKW. I achieved Extra Class in 2017.

Several years ago, before becoming a BVARC member, I was monitoring the Monday night net on 146.94. The regularly scheduled Net Control Station had not announced his presence and I volunteered to serve as the NCS. Before long, I was serving in that capacity on a regular basis and decided to go to a general membership meeting to see what BVARC was all about. I enjoyed the experience and joined BVARC. I currently serve as the NCS for two BVARC nets; The Monday Night net every second Monday of the month and the Stir Crazy net on Thursday.

My life as a communicator has continued into my "retirement" years. In 2010, when my wife and I were enjoying a meal at the local Whataburger in Katy, the place was suddenly invaded by Cadets and Senior members of the local Civil Air Patrol squadron. I introduced myself and mentioned that I was a ham and was a Cadet at Wright Patterson.

Major Val Rose invited me to visit the squadron's radio room during their next meeting. I was soon invited to see the "radio room", I was surprised by what I saw; a closet with two radios on a shelf. I exclaimed, "This is not a radio room." Maj Rose had a vision of a room in which air and ground missions could be conducted and asked if I was interested in making it happen. And with that, my journey in CAP communications began. During the following months, the closet was widened and a functional room with space for three operators was established. That achievement earned me the CAP Group IV Communicator of the Year Award.

I was later honored to receive the Texas Wing Communicator of the Year Award for 2020 and effective this past January I became the CAP Director of Communications for the Texas Wing. I routinely check-in on CAP HF nets that are conducted three times daily on varying USAF bands.

With my service to BVARC as treasurer, and my duties with CAP, including serving as its local liaison with ARES, I'm heavily involved as a volunteer communicator. That's in addition to being the CFO and drum builder at Houston Drum Company. So much for retirement.

2021 Officers:

President (2020-2021)
Michael Hardwick, N5VCX
n5vcx@att.net

Vice President (2021-2022)
Jimmy Vance, NA5D

Recording Secretary (2020-2021)
Mark McGrath -- N5VCM
mark@mccrath-co.com

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

Treasurer (2021-2022)
David Ely, N5EKW
Davidely@prodigy.net

2 Year At-Large Board Member A: (2020-2021)
Rick Hiller, W5RH
Rickhill73@gmail.com

2 Year At-Large Board Member B: (2021-2022)
Scott Medbury KD5FBA
smedbury@windstream.net

1 Year At Large (2020)
Sheree Horton, KF5LMJ
sher5456@gmail.com

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 at 7PM. Check www.BVARC.org for more current info.

Board of Directors Meeting

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



Advertising in the BVARC Newsletter

*Rates are as follows; \$25 per monthly 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. 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.arrl.org/hamfests.html#listing>

May 2021

Dayton Hamvention

Xenia, OH

CANCELLED

June 2021

Ham-Com, Plano, TX

CANCELLED permanently

07/10/2021 - Swapmeet

Location: Texas City, TX

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Tidelands Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.tidelands.org>

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

This newsletter, the **BVARC BEACON**, is a monthly publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club. For a full listing of officers and information about BVARC, please go to www.bvarc.org. Detailed information will be published in the BEACON every 3 or 4 months. Similarly, the "Eating Schedule" will be published every 3 or 4 months unless there is a change.

General membership dues are \$25.00 per year, with student dues \$10.00 per year, additional family members \$5.00 per member per year.

Club meetings are temporarily virtual via ZOOM on the 2nd 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 2nd 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

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April 8, BVARC General Membership Meeting



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