



BVARC BEACON



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

JULY 2021

VOLUME 45 ISSUE 7

BVARC July 8 General Membership Meeting

See the details on this in the President's article, "The Prez Says," in this issue.



MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND + UPCOMING OPERATING EVENT AT THE GALVESTON NAVAL MUSEUM

Well, Museum Ships Weekend, was a bust for the BVARC crew. The weather forecast up to the Thursday night before, had indicated there would be continuous rainfall and thunderstorms, Friday evening through all day Saturday. We called off our mobilization. Saturday the sun was shining, despite the weatherman's predictions (darn). We were unable to reconvene the crew on short notice to re-organize the mobilization.

We are planning an August 29th mobilization to participate in the W/VE Islands QSO Party. Since we'll be operating from the "rarely" activated Pelican Island, we should be on the good side of some pile-ups.

Stay Tuned!



U.S. Air Force Flameproof key – circa 1943

The Prez Says

The summer is full swing with 100-degree temperatures one day and thunderstorms the next. Those two weather related items mean one thing for the Houston area – Field Day. Field Day will be gone by the time you get the newsletter but this year we managed, at the last minute, to return to Duhacsek Park.

As this issue goes to press, the event will be not our normal Quad Club blowout but a more relaxed event. Some called it “Field Day Lite” or “Field Day – A Relaxed State”. Whatever the viewpoint, the event was a fun time for everyone that attends. I want to thank Bill Cordell for ramrodding it this year on antennas facility coordination and the Dynamic Duo of Daphne and Kelli for handling the most important part of Field Day – Food! Thanks go out to Fort Bend County Emergency Management on their bringing their communications trailer and everyone else that helped on set-up and tear-down. Hopefully the 2022 event will be back to the normal Quad Club event and a great turnout.

Unfortunately, this year Museum Ships Weekend (MSWE) was cancelled due to weather. Mark Janzer is planning for a workday in the future so stay tuned to the web site and newsletter for info. If you would like to get involved in MSWE, contact Mark Janzer, K5MGJ. I want to thank Mark for all the hard work that he has done over the last several years for MSWE. Take a trip to Galveston, and tour the USS Stewart and USS Cavalla while you are participating in the upcoming event, scheduled for August 29. See specific article on this herein.

Coming up on BVARC’s July 8th general meeting will be John Thurmond, K5JBT, doing a ZOOM presentation on Arduino and its general and practical applications. John will show everyone that the Arduino microcontroller can do more than blink lights or control garage doors. Make sure you have your questions for John on Arduino applications in ham radio. Mark it on your calendar to attend the BVARC July 8th ZOOM meeting.

I am working on getting the club back to face-to-face meetings starting with BVARC’s annual ICE CREAM social. If possible, the event will be held on August 12th from 7pm to 9pm. Unfortunately, there are two issues - Sugar Land Parks department has not opened the Recreational center for gatherings and when they do the second Thursday has already been reserved for another event. I had hoped SLPD would have contacted me to allow me to throw the club’s name in the hat before they started reserving locations, but it did not happen. The group that has the second Thursday is a contract (read money) and so the date was no longer available. In fact, the date is not available for the rest of the year so **BVARC is now looking for a new location for the general meetings**. So, if anyone has ideas for a meeting location for the club, drop me an e-mail and let me know.

That is it for now.

73
N5VCX



Hamfests

(typically within 200 miles of Houston)

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

07/10/2021 – Tidelands Texas City Hamfest

Location: Texas City, TX

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Tidelands Amateur Radio Society

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

October 1-2, 2021, Belton Ham Expo

This event is a “go.”

Sponsor: Temple Amateur Radio Club –

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/tarcnet/>

For your entertainment pleasure, the following was submitted by Mike Hardwick, N5VCX

Field Day 1939



Field Day 1946



Field Day After a 3 Hour Tour



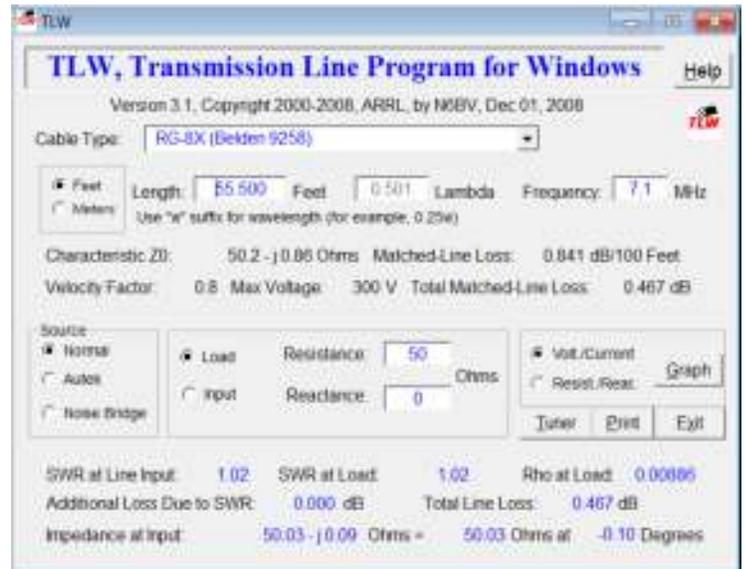
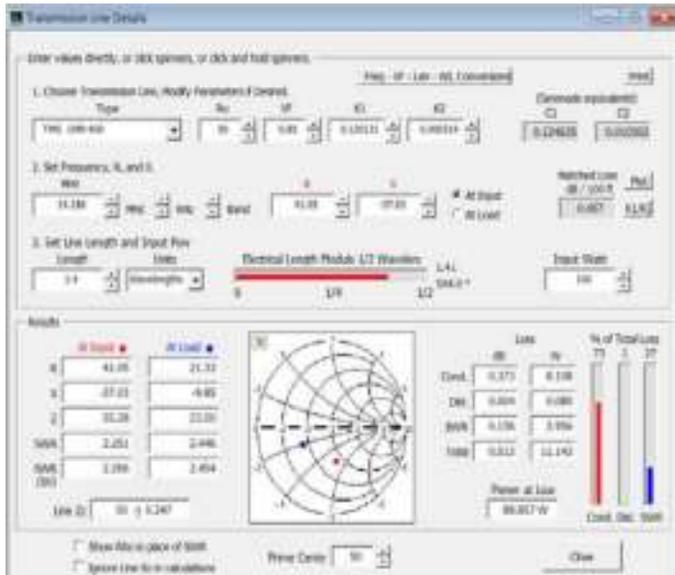
The Radio Hotel – Software Tools for your Feedline

By Rick Hiller -- W5RH

Computers are wonderful. The ability to program them to perform reiterative calculations, that would take quite some time by hand, can now be done, literally, in milli-seconds. Paper, a pencil and a slide rule was the old school method. Thank goodness!

TL's are a mathematician's playground. There is no guess work, it is all exact calculated answers based on initial measurements and characteristics fed into known, foundation equations. The perfect atmosphere for computer programming to lend a hand. TL cables are manufactured for a specific Surge Impedance/characteristic impedance, power handling, velocity factor and have a known capacitance per foot, dielectric loss, etc. Since these quantities are "designed for", the designer uses equations to figure out the manufactured configuration. If all of the design and resultant attributes can be calculated, then a computer program to do all of these calculations is easily coded up. In fact, there are 2 such packages readily available: **TL Details** and **TLW**.

TL Details, by **Dan Maguire, AC6LA**, is shown below at the left. The top half is input data and the bottom half is the result. Many cable type characteristics are pre-loaded so you just pick a type, set the frequency, the length and power and the calculations are dynamically performed. The results show you power, total loss and where that loss occurs, also, the impedance transformation for that particular length of TL, if in an unmatched condition. In addition, a rudimentary Smith Chart is shown for a gross reference on the impedance result. The entry fields have up and down buttons to increase or decrease the values and if you hold them down, the resultant values will change and the Smith Chart will replot in real time. Using this feature you can see very "movie like" changes happening over the TL as the length, the load or the source Z changes, etc.



TLW, the GUI on the right, is from ARRL, written by **Dean Straw, N6BV**. Similar in function to TL Details, with no Smith Chart, but an additional function for creating a schematic of a matching network "tuner" in various configurations, i.e. High Pass, Low Pass, etc. Additionally, once you settle on the TL variables you can get a graph plot of the voltage and current excursions on the TL. This is quite helpful when dealing with non-matched lines where the voltages can become quite high and exceed the breakdown voltage of the coax dielectric. TLW has a particularly nice HELP file.

Google **TL Details** for download sites. **TLW** is included in the ARRL Antenna Handbook.

GL ES 73 DE W5RH Enjoy your hobby.

Cutting Through the Static

A Column for Newbies & Everyone Else

When I first got started in ham radio (the second time I first got started) I relied on the internet for a lot of answers, and of course, especially YouTube. I learned a lot about basic electronics there, focusing on circuit theory. There are quite a number of YouTube teachers available, some of who are actual college instructors who do videos for their students.

I also took video instruction on other topics like soldering and antennas. And I looked for advice on products to buy and how to use those products.

But when it came to actual ham radio problem-solving, one of my go-to guys is Dave Casler, KE0OG, otherwise known as OG. He opens his videos cleanly, without a lot of ego bluster that you so often see in ham videos. In other words, he gets right to the point.

And now, Dave is the new guy in QST magazine, one of the monthly publications of the ARRL. He is taking over for the now retired Dr. Joel Hallas of "The Doctor is In" fame. Dave's new column is called simply "Ask Dave." Hurray Dave! You are a great choice for the job because you are a great teacher. Congratulations!!!



There are other YouTube Channels that I have found to be very helpful to me as I grow as a ham radio enthusiast.

The EEVblog with Aussie David L Jones has been invaluable as I work to improve my understanding of electronics. Dave is a brilliant teacher but also kind of whacky and that makes his offerings not only helpful, but kind of entertaining. Jones is an electronics design engineer, and you'll see by the comments that he has lots of engineering students following his channel.

Hidden deep inside my consciousness is the heart of a prepper, probably left over from my wonderful days as a Boy Scout. If there's a bit of that in you, please check out OH8STN's off-grid channel. Julian lives and operates above the arctic circle in Finland, so he is very focused on dealing with the harsh environment and all the hazards that go with it. He is very knowledgeable, not only in surviving off grid, but also on off grid electronics and ham radio.



There are a lot of old timers who love antique gear, and I enjoy seeing old radios and other electronic gear restored at the YouTube channel Mr. Carlson's Lab. Mr. Carlson is a teacher at heart and he will take you through his restorations step by step, sometimes using very clever tricks to replace obsolete parts in a way that an antique evaluator would not notice.



And finally, I want to mention our own KI5NPL Scott Bulkley who runs the website HamRadioforNonTechies.com and a YouTube channel called HR4NT. Scott is focused on helping newcomers to the hobby. He is a member of BVARC and I'm sure he'd like to hear from you.

If you have a topic you'd like me to cover in this column, please let me know at K5JPP@arrl.net.

June VE - FCC TESTING SESSIONS RESULTS

Bayland Community Center is open, they are currently back to 100% capacity, so no headcount limits. Facemasks are still required. For Saturday, June 12th, we had 5 candidates and conducted 11 tests.

New Licensees:

C. Simonton (Technician)
M. Flores (Technician)
H. Schmidt (Technician)
J. Schmidt (Technician)

Upgrades:

S. Lurie KI5DFT (Extra)

Congratulations to all!

A GREAT, thank you to the VEs in attendance – K5GOL, N5DTT, K5LJ and WM5N.

This past session we had a candidate who requested added assistance, due to physical limitations. The VE Team stepped up to the plate and provided aid, while maintaining the integrity of the testing process. Our congratulations to KI5QGS for his achievement (as well as the other successful candidates).

The next BVARC test session is Saturday July 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.



BVARC Rag Chew Net

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

05/26/21, K5LKJ(NCS), K5JPP, W5TKZ, K5HEC, AA5OA (T))Percy, AR), KB7QL (Rustin, LA), KG5BBF, W5VOM, KI5MRS/5, W5ALW, WA6JOB (R), N5VCM, W5NF (Sweeny). (13 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 83, SN = 36, A = 19, K = 5 / Band Rpt: Poor

06/02/21, K5LKJ (NCS), W1BG (Katy), K5LJ, K5JPP, K5PGF, W5TKZ, KG5BBF, W5ALW, N5VCM, KB7QL (Rustin, LA), AA0ST (Dickinson), K2MPP, KI5HC (League City), KD5FBA, W5GMD (Alvin), W5RH, KF5PHA. (17 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 76, SN = 20, A = 3, K = 3 / Band Rpt: Fair

06/09/21, K5LKJ (NCS), KG5SBA, KG5LJZ, W5TKZ, KI5HOC, KI5HC (League City), W5VOM, K5LJ, KB7QL (Rustin, LA), AA5OA (Percy, AR), W5ALW, K5HEC, N5VCM, KF5HYU, K5JPP, KG5BBF, AA0ST (Dickinson). (17 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 79, SN = 42, A = 5, K = 1 / Band Rpt: Fair

06/16/21, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, K2MPP, W5TKZ, K5HEC, KI5HOC, K5LJ, N5VCM, K5IGI (Cypress), W5TOM, K5PGF, AA0ST (Dickinson), WW5PA, KB7QL (Rustin, LA), W2WF, KG5BBF. (15 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 76, SN = 11, A = 17, K = 2 / Band Rpt: Poor

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

Regards.
John K5LKJ



MINUTES
Board of Directors Meeting
Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
June 6, 2021 9:00 AM
Via Videoconference

Members Present:

Mike Hardwick N5VCX
(President)

Rick Hiller W5RH (2 yr at
large director)

Sheree Horton WM5N 1 yr
at large director))

David Ely N5EKW
(Treasurer)

Jeff Greer W5JEF (Cor.
Secretary)

Scott Medbury KD5FBA (2
yr at large director)

Bill Cordell W5VOM

Ron Litt K5HM

Chris Luppens KG5BBF

Mark Janzer K5MGJ

Recorded by Mark McGrath N5VCM Recording
Secretary

1. Call to Order: The President called the meeting to order at 9:00 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: No agenda prepared
5. Emergency Business: No emergency business.
6. Approval of Minutes: No minutes submitted.
7. Approval of Treasurer's Report: Approved as presented.
8. Corresponding Secretary: Clean up of club roster continues.
9. Old Business:

- Upcoming general membership meetings: June – John Thurmond K5JBT – Arduino
 - Face to face meetings. Shooting for return in August at Ice Cream Social
10. New Business:
 - Field day is on June 26 and 27 at Sugar Land's Duhacsek Park. Due to late notice facilities would be available, the board concurred on a "lite" approach with about half of the normal number of stations participating. Focus will be on learning, education and having fun.
 - July meeting – No solid program yet. Possible topics discussed.
 11. Next BoD Meeting Date: July 3, 2021?
 12. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM

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

Other contacts include:

President:, Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, n5vcx@att.net

Newsletter Editor, John Chauvin, K5IZO, k5izo@yahoo.com

Newsletter Printing, Assembly and Mailing: Daphne Rawlinson, K5VQY, daphne_rawlinson@hotmail.com.

Jeff Greer, W5JEF, greerjw@hotmail.com, Mark Brantana, N5PRD

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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

July 8, BVARC General Membership Meeting



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