



BVARC BEACON



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

DECEMBER 2021

VOLUME 45 ISSUE 12

December General Membership Meeting Thursday, December 9, 7PM Duhacsek Park at Old Richmond Road and Voss

The December General Membership meeting will be our traditional Home Brew Night. Do you have a ham home brew project that you would like to do a "Show and Tell?" It needn't be a just completed project. You could win a prize. Contact Mike Hardwick, if you intend to bring something. See the article on the next page, The Prez says, if so.



Elections, Chili and Great Hospitality

The BVARC "in-person and Zoom" November meeting was the first physical meeting after a long period of Covid isolation. Duhacsek Park in Sugar Land was the venue and a familiar one at that. 31 folks braved the cooler Fall weather and the threat of the CV-19 virus along with 9 on-line Zoom attendees to elect four members to the 2022 Board of Directors. 1 Year-At-Large was Sheree Horton, WM5N; 2 Year-At-Large was Anthony Morones, W5LIC; returning Treasurer was Dave Ely, N5EKW; and Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, was re-elected to the top seat – President.

Only one race was a challenge when Terry Leatherland, K5PGF, faced off against floor nominated Anthony, W5LIC, who won by a very narrow margin, for the 2 Year-At-Large. Many thanks to

all who stepped forward to ensure BVARC had a full Board of Directors for 2022. Following elections, chili was served, as prepared by the hard working chief cooks and bottle washers (seen at right): Daphne Rawlinson, K5VQY, and Lou Ann Medbury, wife of Scott, KD5FBA. Thank you, ladies -- for the chili, sides, chocolate cake and the great a la carte menu options. Your volunteer efforts are very much appreciated, not only for this time, but for the many other times y'all have stepped forward to provide libations and victuals for a famished BVARC membership.



by Rick W5RH – 2021 Election Committee Chairman

The Prez Says

Well, we are at the end of another year. We are still living with COVID and its many variants as well as all the problems they present. The club is still surviving, and we finally had a face-to-face meeting last month after a year and half of ZOOMing it. A lot of things have affected the amateur radio hobby, but the club has done well over the last 18 months breaking the 300 member count a few times. We are currently at 297 so we are getting close once again. So even with the problems of COVID, BVARC has pulled through.

The Repeater Fund Raising drive has been a success with nearly \$1500 raised as well as a donation of a new repeater. Everyone needs to keep rattling the cages out there for more donations to help Robert, KD5YVQ maintain the equipment and location. Check the newsletter for more on the fund-raising drive.

Our Bayland Community Center dates for 2022 have still not been confirmed. No response has been heard yet from Harris County so hopefully they will notify me soon on the reservations. The dates at Bayland will affect testing, the annual banquet and bi-monthly training classes that I requested. As soon as the confirmation is released from Harris County, I will make sure it is published in the newsletter, the web site and the weekly e-mail blast.

Things are still up in the air for the Sugar Land recreational center. Due to COVID, Sugar Land parks has “rented” out the facility to another organization on our normally Thursday meeting day. Plus, they close the facility down at 8 pm each night which would make the center not usable for our club meetings. For now, we will continue to use the Duhacsek Community center for our general meetings.

Our November meeting went off fairly well for our first one in 18 months. Daphne and Luanne did a great job on the Chili supper. It would be nice to have that at every meeting but after a few months, most of us would not be able to get through the door! Rick did a great job on the elections even though the ZOOM connection were a little iffy. More on the elections elsewhere in the newsletter.

Our December 9th meeting will be our old favorite – *Home Brew Night*. So, bring out the best of your home-built equipment to show-off and maybe even win a prize! Please contact me if you plan to enter a piece of equipment in the contest. Remember the meeting will be held at Duhacsek Park at Old Richmond Road and Voss at 7pm.

BVARC’s Field Day Score in QST put the club at the top of 4A Commercial. **We had 1,587 contacts generating 5,966 points.** We had 67 people attend Field Day at Duhacsek Park. Thanks to everyone that attend and worked Field Day!

Last but not least, the Greater Houston HamFest. There have been two organizational meetings for the GHHF that were poorly attended. There will be other meetings in December so stay tuned to the web and e-mail blast. If you are wanting a HamFest in Houston, please make sure you attend. We need volunteers and group leaders to make sure it happens.

The Radio Hotel – A Complete Index

by Rick Hiller – W5RH

Thank you for reading this column each month. I started writing The Radio Hotel column in April of 2014. It has appeared monthly in the Brazos Valley Beacon Newsletter since then, skipping a few now and then. Currently there are a total of 85 columns: all about antennas, feedlines, RF theory on impedance and SWR, commercial antenna offerings, practical antenna implementations, etc. All subjects near and dear to my heart.

I have compiled an index of these 85 columns, their titles and subject. Eddie has placed it on the BVARC Tech Pages at <http://bvarc.org/home/tech-pages/> Simply note the month and year of the article you wish to read. Then go to the newsletter pages at <http://www.bvarc.org/newsletters.php> and select that issue.

I do hope that The Radio Hotel has provided you with technical guidance, insight and maybe a bit of humor that you can use in your pursuit of fun and satisfaction within Ham Radio. Below is a sample of the first year's listing.

2014

April – Four Whys of our Antenna Systems

May – The Standing Wave- Part 1

June – The Standing Wave Ratio-Part 2

July – Measuring SWR-Part 3

August – *NP (not published)*

September – Antenna Bandwidth and SWR-Part 4

October – Matching within the Antenna System-Part 5

November – Reflected Reflections-Part 6

December – SWR/Matching and Learning-Part 7

The complete index 2014 thru 2021 is at <http://bvarc.org/home/tech-pages/>

The Radio Hotel Mission Statement

The Radio Hotel's mission is to provide high level information and guidance on antenna system theory and practical knowledge.

I realize that there are a gaggle of authors of antenna articles, pamphlets and books (many of which I have in my library). But it is also realized that not every author holds the verbal key to an individual reader's ability to understand. For example: some folks like James Michner and others like Bill Bryson.

The Radio Hotel tries to look at the antenna system from a slightly different perspective in the hopes of being the key to your personal "reader mind". I try to provide a clear explanation of the technology and practical aspects on whatever is the subject for that month. A higher level of mission is to have you enjoy the hobby as much as I do, whether it is the technology, the on-air fun, the camaraderie and fellowship or simply the journey along a path of learning, building and operating to arrive at the Ham Radio destination of your choosing.

The Radio Hotel will continue in the January 2022 issue of the world renowned BVARC Beacon.

Wishing you the merriest of holidays and a very Happy New Year.....73....Rick – W5RH

The Feed Point

BVARC Members, How We Got Here

Anthony Morones, W5LIC

I am still new to amateur radio. I came from CB radio where I had run out of projects to build. I went looking for a different type of radios to use and my search took me to EPO. There, I purchased a used 70 cm transceiver, but I didn't realize what I had. When I got the radio home and turned it on I was shocked to see it didn't look anything like what I was used to. I soon realized I needed an amateur radio license to use my new rig so I soon took the test and got my Technician license. That's when my journey into the wonderful world of amateur radio began.

I started out making my own Allstar node. I used a "Raspberry Pi 3b Plus" and a Baofeng radio. I met a lot of people on the air and found a great new friend in Gosport, England. I now have three nodes, two at home, and one I use when I remember to grab it for my SUV. Then I heard about DMR. I built a few of DMR hotspots until I found one I like. I made a few good contacts and enjoyed that for a bit.

I also got into NTS (National Traffic System). I really enjoy receiving, sending, and delivering messages (traffic). I sometimes like to test the time it takes to send a practice message to different places. I have sent messages to buddies in Gosport, the Philippines and different states. I would encourage everyone to give NTS a try. It's fun and fits in with our obligation to operate as a public service. And by the way, my venture with NTS lead me to Winlink for email handling. And Winlink introduced me to HF which motivated me to get my General license.



With my General, I discovered POTA (Parks On The Air) and I have been enjoying it ever since. I have put together a go box and bag. I use the Icom 7000 and G-90 paired with two antennas, an Emcom III and an End Fed Half Wave I built. I like learning how to use my equipment portable. If you'd would like to see more about my ham radio journey, check me out on QRZ.com

73, Anthony, W5LIC

Where in the World is . . . ?

The North Pole

Well, here it is . . . After almost two years of Covid, depending on how you count it. We are at the Christmas season. It's about time we figure out what happened to Santa. Does he still live at the North Pole? And where the heck is that?

There are many North Poles. There is North Pole NY, North Pole Idaho, North Pole Alaska, and North Pole Oklahoma. There is even a North Pole in Western Australia. Then there is the Magnetic North Pole which moves around from time to time.



Then of course there is the True North pole. It is the northernmost point on Earth. It is the precise point of the intersection of the Earth's axis and the Earth's surface. From the North Pole, all directions are south. Its latitude is 90 degrees north, and all lines of longitude meet there (as well as at the South Pole, on the opposite end of the Earth). Polaris, the North Star, sits almost motionless in the sky above the pole, making it an excellent fixed point to use in celestial navigation in the Northern Hemisphere. As well as a way for Santa Claus to find his way home after his annual night out with the reindeer. Mrs. Claus wasn't kidding when she said, "I'll leave the light on for you!"

The North Pole sits in the middle of the Arctic Ocean, on water that is almost always covered with ice. Sunlight is experienced in extremes at the poles. The sun is always above the horizon in the summer and below the horizon in the winter. So, the region experiences up to 24 hours of sunlight in the summer and 24 hours of darkness in the winter. As all lines of longitude meet at the poles, and the sun is only overhead twice a year. For this reason, scientists and explorers at the poles record time-related data using whatever time zone they want.

Technically, no nation owns the North Pole since the closest land lies 13,000 feet beneath the Arctic Ocean. That hasn't kept countries from making the claim. The United States, Russia, Denmark and most recently, Canada have all petitioned the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea to grant them the rights of ownership on the North Pole.

The so-called Northwest Passage is the problem. It is the shortest sea route between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. It runs through the Arctic Ocean, along the northern coast of North America via waterways through the Canadian Arctic Archipelago. The eastern route along the Arctic coasts of Norway and Siberia is accordingly called the Northeast Passage.

For centuries, European explorers, beginning with Christopher Columbus in 1492, sought a navigable passage as a possible trade route to Asia, but were blocked by North, Central, and South America, by ice, or by rough waters rounding Cape Horn. Even the Panama Canal is too shallow for some super-sized cargo ships today. In 1854 Norwegian Roald Amundsen found a route, making the first complete passage in 1903–1906. Until 2009, the Arctic pack ice prevented regular marine shipping throughout most of the year. The Arctic Sea ice decline has rendered the waterways more navigable for ice navigation.

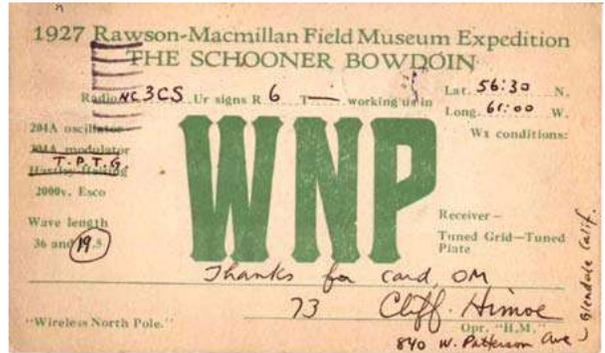


Amateur radio was very important to polar explorers. It helped aid logistics and morale. From the 1900's – 40's. some 40 expeditions were recognized and became increasingly dependent on wireless communication. Until the McMillan and Byrd expedition, previous explorations used medium and long wave to penetrate the screen of the Aurora Borealis. They failed to provide reliable communications. McMillan turned to the ARRL for assistance in outfitting his expedition with shortwave gear. Hiram Percy Maxim (photo – Left in knickers) assisted and helped recruit an operator, Donald Mix, 1TS. The radio equipment was specially designed and constructed by M.B. West and amateurs at his firm, Zenith Electronics. The equipment was installed aboard the schooner *Bowdoin*. The McMillan expedition in 1923, was most notable in its use of short waves to be in consistent contact with the outside world. Eventually, there were eight expeditions, beginning in 1923 that used shipboard ham radio for daily communications. For more information, see *Polar Exploration* in the June 2014 issue of QST.

The final photo is a QSL card from the schooner *Bowdoin* to 3CS during the 1927 expedition. The vessel's callsign, WNP stood for "Wireless North Pole."



In the 21st century, major changes to the ice pack due to climate change have stirred speculation that the passage may become clear enough of ice to permit safe commercial shipping for at least part of the year. On August 21, 2007, the Northwest Passage became open to ships without the need of an icebreaker. This was the first time the Passage has been clear since they began keeping records in 1972. The Northwest Passage opened again on August 25, 2008, for various kind of ships, making it possible to sail around the Arctic ice cap, possibly cutting thousands of miles off shipping routes.



Reporting from the Darkside,

Ron, K5HM



BVARC Rag Chew Net

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

10/13/21, W5TKZ (NCS), K5JPP, KG5LJZ (Houston (Clear Lake)), KI5HOC, W5VOM, WW5PA, K2MPP, W5RH, WA5ANF (T), WD5L (T), W2WF, N5VCM, W5ALW, KG5RPZ (Pineville, LA), K5HEC (Houston (Jersey Village)), KA5DMN (Montgomery), KI5HC (League City), AA0ST (Dickinson).
(18 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 83, SN = 27, A = 6, K = 2/Band Rpt: Fair

10/20/21, W5TKZ (NCS), K5LJ, K5JPP, KI5HOC, W5ALW, W5VOM, K5IZO, K5PGF, W5RH, AA5OA (Percy, AR), WB4KTF (Austin), W5TOM, KB7QL (Rustin, LA), AA0ST (Dickinson)(T), WD5L (T).
(15 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 77, SN = 11, A = 6, K = 2 / Band Rpt: Fair

10/27/21, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, KE5VDP (Little Elm), WA5CYI, K5LJ, AA5OA (Percy, AR), W5VOM, KF5PHA, K5TNL (Spring), W1DVZ (Grandbury). (10 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 110, SN = 95, A = 4, K = 1 / Band Rpt: Good

11/03/21, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, W5VOM, K5TNL (Spring), KE4DRF, AA0ST/5 (Collins, MO)(M), N5VCM, KI5HOC, W5RH, WA5ANF (T), AA5OA (Percy, AR), WD5L (T), KF5PHA (T).
(14 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 89, SN = 42, A = 13, K = 4/Band Rpt: Fair

11/10/21, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TOM, W5TKZ, KI5HC (League City), K5JPP, K5MPP, K5TGF, W5RH, AA5OA (Percy, AR), KF5HYU, AA0ST/5 (Collins, MO)(T). (11 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 87, SN = 40, A = 8, K = 2/Band Rpt: Fair

11/17/21, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, WW5PA, W5VOM, K5TNL (Spring), K5LJ, K2MPP, KI5HOC, AA5OA (Percy, AR), W1BG (Katy), K5HEC (Houston (Jersey Village)), WB4KTF (Austin), W5RH, AA0ST (Dickinson), KF5PHA, KF5HYU, WD5L (T). (17 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 81, SN = 35, A = 13, K = 3/Band Rpt: Fair

(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

Have you tried Parks on the Air?

It not a contest, but very much an opportunity to establish goals within your individual capabilities as an operator.

It's been long enough since we had a zoom presentation on Parks On The Air (POTA) that I thought that I would see how many friends and operators have dipped their toes of fingers in the POTA waters.

In my own case, I've had the POTA bug for several years now on SSB and have not made and digital or CW contacts as of this writing, but there are lots of opportunities out there. Working hams in parks in all 50 states is possible. (I've done it with my meager station.) WB4KTF has done it since he got infected with the POTA Bug as well.

Working stations in parks in other countries is possible. The program frequently has activations posted in North America, South and Central America, Europe, Asia and elsewhere. With Solar Cycle 25 beginning to pop, band conditions are opening everything from 10 meters to 80 so everyone should be able to get into the act. All the bands open to amateur use are available from HF up through VHF, UHF and satellite. Some parks are occasionally on 2 meters simplex and SSB. You just can't use a repeater except a satellite.

Several BVARC members have jumped into activating parks, KC5TT, has made a bunch of QSOs from many Texas parks and others including K5EC, W5LIC, KI5NPR, WB5N have made treks to parks for the purpose of operating with a variety of different antennas and radios from QRP to 100 watts. Modes used include CW, SSW, RTTY, FT4, FT8, and Olivia to name some of the most popular. Next year, who knows how many will activate parks for Texas Parks On The Air?

Getting credit where credit is due is easy. Just register on the POTA website. The awards you earn will be there as well as an easy-to-use activation cluster and lots of information. To get credit for contacts, you do not need to upload your log unless operating from a park. Many parks that are activated had had photos posted on the Parks on the Air Facebook group.

So, get on the air and make QSOs and friends!

73 and Happy Hunting!

Scott KD5FBA



146.940 Repeater Fund Drive Update

At the beginning of October, it was announced that there would be a fund-raising drive for the 94 repeater. Several things have happened since then, so it seemed like a suitable time to update everyone.

Item one on the update relates to the money raised so far. User and club members have donated close to \$1500 toward the repeater fund. With this amount as well as the repeater repair fund that is also available, we will close to have \$2,000. This is a great start with only two months into the drive.

Item two on the updates is there has been an equipment donation. Cameron Mitchell, W5CAM, and Dan White, W5AOV have donated a Yaesu DR-2X dual band/analog digital repeater. The repeater is capable to operate in either analog or system fusion depending on the input signals. Once the paperwork is all squared away with Cameron, the repeater will be programmed and installed at the tower site. This should happen sometime after the first of the year, depending on available time and weather.

Item three on the updates is a change in items needed to be done at the tower site. Since a repeater has been donated, the money raised can go toward other items. Listed below are several things that will be done over the next few months:

- a. Clean and pressure wash the repeater building.
- b. Clean and prepare building roof for repair.
- c. Install a membrane over the current roof and seal.
- d. Repair rotten 2 X 4's inside the building.
- e. Repair wall panels that damaged by the leaking roof.
- f. Repair/update electrical circuits in building.

These repairs along with repairs done in October will make sure the repeater site is weather tight and will be functional for many more years.

There are still plans to connect the repeater to a linked network but that will be dependent on getting an Internet connection at the site. Hopefully, that will happen in the next few months as well.

Mike and I want to thank everyone for their donations toward the 146.940 repeater. Your donations will help keep the 94 repeater up and operating for a long time.

Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ - Trustee of the 146.940 repeater

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX – Gopher 3rd Class



MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

November 6, 2021 9:00 AM; Via Videoconference

Members Present:

Mike Hardwick N5VCX
(President)

Jimmy Vance NA5D (Vice
President)

David Ely N5EKW (Treasurer)
Scott Medbury KD5FBA (2 yr
at large director)

Terry Leatherland K5PGF
Chris Luppens KG5BBF

Recorded by Mark McGrath N5VCM Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order: The President called the meeting to order.
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: Agenda approved:
5. No emergency business.
6. Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved as submitted.
7. Approval of Treasurer's Report: Approved as presented.
8. Corresponding Secretary: No report
9. Old Business:
 - Upcoming general membership meetings: November – elections/chili; December – TBD
 - Newsletter editor update
10. New Business:
 - Discussion of January Banquet.
11. Next BoD Meeting Date: December 4, 2021
12. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned 10:21 AM

November VE - FCC TESTING SESSIONS RESULTS

Bayland Community Center is open, they are currently back to 100% capacity, so no headcount limits.
For Saturday, November 6th, we had 6 candidates and conducted 7 tests.

New Licensees:

M. Martinez (Technician)
M. Algazaz (Technician)
S. Kolla (Technician)
M. Doerge (Technician)

Upgrades:

KI5MIK (Extra)
KF5HYU (Extra)

Congratulations to all!

A GREAT, thank you to the VEs in attendance – K5GOL, K5LJ, W5DRB, and W5GX!

The next BVARC test session is Saturday December 4th, 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 early in 2022. 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.



Officers, Regularly scheduled items, advertising info, Eating Schedule and other reference info is not published every month. Much of this information is available on the BVARC Web site, www.bvarc.org and in back issues of the BEACON which are also available on the website.



Hamfests

(typically within 200 miles of Houston)

03/04/2022 – 03/04/2022 **Greater Houston Hamfest**

Location: Rosenberg, TX
Sponsor: Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
Website: Info forthcoming

06/17/2022 - 06/18/2022 **Radio Fiesta**

Location: Schertz, TX
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: San Antonio Radio Club
Website: <https://w5sc.org/>

Cutting through the Static

Where Newbies Learn thru My Ham Misadventures

December 2021

We talked about choosing a battery for portable operating last month, so now the focus is the rest of the preparation for operating portable. The topic is particularly relevant right now with the explosive growth of Parks on the Air (POTA).

I have spent the last few weeks in preparation for this adventure and it has been a bit of a challenge. I say that because I did not plan out the process, I just delved into it without a lot of forethought, sometimes taking two steps forward and then having to take one step back.

I had decided that I would build an End Fed Half Wave Antenna for my trip to the park, and I found loads of “how to” information on the internet. There is a link at the bottom of this article that is a great resource for portable antenna builders. It’s a slide show from a club presentation by Steve Dick, K1RF. Unfortunately, I found this PowerPoint presentation after my adventure had begun and then felt the need to backtrack.

I’m going to use my Yaesu FT-857D transceiver for my POTA experience. I am powering up using a Bienno LiFePo4 30 Ah battery, and I should be able to operate for several hours using SSB, at 100 watts. I am also equipped to do FT8, but that mode has a much higher duty cycle and requires an element of caution in the length of time I can operate.

I had some starts and stops in my building effort. I initially purchased a plastic project box for the unun, only to discover that it was way too flimsy for portable use. So, I ordered another, this one much better suited for the job. My purchase of a single 240-43 toroid was also poorly conceived. My ongoing research (as opposed to planning, which would have smoothed out some of the rough spots), lead to the realization that 100 watts of power really ought to have two stacked toroids in the 49:1 unun, instead of just one, for efficiency’s sake.

What I haven’t mentioned was my plan to be operating portable by Thanksgiving, and I soon discovered that all known sources for toroids could not commit to delivery under that deadline. And that explains why I made a request on the BVARC reflector to buy or borrow a 240-43 toroid from a member. Help was delivered thanks to W5LIC Anthony; and I was then in the clear to finish the build.

Next up, looking for the best way to launch an antenna wire into a tree. I tried slingshots of various quality and a casting rod (yes, a fishing rod) to get a starter line high up in a tree. That was all hit or miss, (mostly miss). But then I found the method arborists use to get a climbing rope into a tree. Short of using a pneumatic-powered launcher, I think the arborist’s trick is the best way to go. You can create your own kit using a water bottle full of gravel or order an arborist throw line kit from Amazon for little more than 20-dollars. Suffice it to say there are a lot of YouTube videos available demonstrating various throwline techniques. I think this is by far the most efficient way to get your antenna up into a tree.

Once the antenna was hung, I made a quick test of its resonance using my analyzer. Reassured that it was useable for 40, 20, and some of the upper HF bands, I was ready for my Thanksgiving portable adventure. I’ll have a report for you in the January Cutting through the Static column. <http://www.gnarc.org/wp-content/uploads/The-End-Fed-Half-Wave-Antenna.pdf>

2 Nights Before Christmas
Ron Litt, K5HM

Two nights before Christmas and up at the shop,
Santa was checking his sleigh for the big hop.

His APRS was already on line,
So, the gang down at NORAD could track him 5 – 9.

The new HF rig was tuned up on 20.
He knew that 100 watts would be plenty.

“I’ll be on VOX for this flight”, he said in his head.
I have to be able to look straight ahead.”

So, sideband it is for the big night tomorrow.
I hope the CW guys won’t be too full of sorrow.

The two-meter rig was already encoded,
With every repeater that could be uploaded.

They’ll know when Santa’s near; they won’t be surprised,
And make sure the kids have all closed their eyes.

He stopped for a moment then gave a big start,
When he suddenly realized he was missing a part.

“Of course!”, he shouted. “its my laptop PC!
I won’t get far without it on my knee.”

“Its got my log and my list and my flight plan too,
Though I always have Rudolph to guide me through.”

He pulled out his wallet once more to check,
That his FCC license was there for the trek.

“Well, it looks like I’m ready”, they heard him declare,
“I’ll be single op unassisted for the entire affair.”

“I better get some rest now before the big night,
So, I can be ready for the long flight.”

And they heard him exclaim as he walked off to bed,
“CQ, CQ, CQ . . . QRZed?”

Merry Christmas Y’all

73,
Ron, 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. 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

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

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December 9 – General Membership Meeting



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