



# BVARC BEACON



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

MAY 2023

VOLUME 47 ISSUE 5

## May General Membership Meeting notice:

May 11, 2023, 7:30 PM

Community Volunteer Fire Department Community Center, 16005 Bellaire Blvd.

Check the website or the Reflector for Zoom meeting details.

**See "The Prez Says" article below regarding RSVP for food and selections by the previous day (Wednesday, May 10).**

For the May 11th BVARC General Meeting, Mark Janzer, K5MGJ will present "Ships Across America and the World - Museum Ships Weekend"

The presentation will have an overview of the worldwide Museum Ships Weekend Event, including a sampling of the ships that will be participating, and their historical significance. We'll show BVARC's involvement over the years and detail the radio operating set-up on the destroyer escort and submarine. We'll be reviewing the onboard results of the radio related repair visit at the Galveston Naval Museum on April 29th & the plans for the repair visit on May 13th. The meeting will also be a planning session for the MSWE (June 2nd, 3rd, 4th) and develop a schedule for that weekend.

If interested in volunteering for the repair visits and the MSWE weekend, please contact Mark Janzer, K5MGJ.



## The Prez Says

A quick update from the balloon launched at the Greater Houston HamFest. N5EKO-109 had completed its **FOURTH TRIP AROUND THE PLANET!** From the last reporting time on 4-11, it was at a little over 42,000 feet approaching the Azores at a leisurely 1.8 miles an hour.

The local BVARC happenings are many and almost impossible to cover all in the Prez Says. From POTA action brought by Anthony, W5LIC and Kori, WX5KR to Museum Ships Weekend with Mark, K5MGJ at the helm to Field Day to harmonizing by Kori, WX5KR the club is in high gear.

As I am writing this, Anthony and Kori are shutting down their POTA activation at Huntsville State Park. Hopefully one of them will have a great article next month to see how things went (hint, hint). The Anthony and Kori team has put together a POTA event every month since the beginning of the year. I know they are planning something for many months to come so stay tuned to the newsletter and web site for more information.

Right around the corner is Museum Ships Weekend. Mark, K5MGJ has been coordinating the event for several years and has always had a great turnout for the weekend. If you would like to help Mark at a work party before the event, give him a call. The May club meeting will have more information on the event so come out and find out what you can do to help.

Speaking of the May club meeting, there will be food served again. If you would like to indulge with a BBQ baked potato with all the toppings, chocolate chip cookies and possible a German chocolate cake, please send me an RSVP if you plan to attend the meeting and would like to fatten up some. Send your RSVP to [n5vcx@att.net](mailto:n5vcx@att.net) and let me know if you want brisket or sausage and what toppings. If you are not sure just yet, there will be a couple of e-mails sent out before the meeting asking everyone what they would like. As always, there will be soft drinks, water, and coffee.

Right around the corner is ARRL Field Day. We will be returning to the Fort Bend County Fire Training Field. More information coming soon in the newsletter and web site so keep your eyes open. If you would like to help, drop Kori, WX5KR, a note letting him know you are ready to get your hands dirty.

An e-mail sent out in the middle of April notifying everyone that various committees will be formed over the next few weeks to help manage the functions and events that BVARC are now involved in. These committees will be filled with BOD members as well as from the general membership. If you would like to sit on a committee, please drop me an e-mail. So far, the committees I am trying to fill are:

Membership	Club Events	Newsletter	Web site	NETS
Elmering	Financial	Committee Management		

If you are interested in joining a participating in a committee, please let me know.

Hope to see everyone at the May meeting. Do not forget to RSVP on ordering a BBQ baked potato!

73, N5VCX

### **My Friend and BVARC Member, Walter Bazarsky, W5KFL, SK**

Walter became an SK on April 11, 2023. at the age of 81. He originally got his license in the mid-50s, got his Advanced class license and was an avid contester in his 30s and 40s. He was always gracious and generous. Probably the longest standing active ham that did amateur radio with him was Allen Brier, N5XZ. He invited Allen to use his competitive station as Allen was a teenager and they lived in the same neighborhood. Having started a very successful business and a family in the 60s, he eventually became inactive for several decades, but did retain his license as current.

He came into my life just a few years ago when he was wanting to get active once again. He was referred to me by a North Texas vendor. He couldn't have an antenna from his condo, so I helped put up his antennas at his place of business and assisted Nizar Mullani, K0NM, in his getting a remote station working. Chris Norris, N8AI, has maintained that remote station for the past several years. Walter allowed several people to use his remote. Due to his medical condition, he could not use it as much as he wanted.

Upon meeting him, we became fast friends. He couldn't drive, so I brought him to various BVAC meetings, and had many lunches with him. He routinely invited my wife, Priscilla, and me to several personal celebrations and parties in his condo and elsewhere.

Unfortunately, he did not have time to become fully proficient with his remote station as his condition rapidly deteriorated.

So long Walter. You were a true friend.

73, SK

John Chauvin, K5IZO

## A Bittersweet Announcement

“To: The BVARC Board of Directors and several others.

In accordance with my announcement at the Board of Director’s Meeting, April 8, 2023, I hereby give notice of resignation as the Editor of the BVARC BEACON, effective July 10, 2023. This is after the July issue is sent out....“

After 18 ½ years, John Chauvin, K5IZO has decided to step down as the BVARC Beacon editor. With John leaving, he takes with him the title of being the longest serving editor since the club’s inception. After several months of having off and on editors, John decided to take the reins and see what he could do. So, in November of 2004, the first edition with John as editor was published.

So come July 10, after 220 issues, the curtain closes on John Chauvin, K5IZO editor of the BVARC Beacon. The club appreciates your diligence and tenacity in keeping the newsletter going. Without your drive and hard work, Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club would not have become one of the best amateur radio clubs in Texas.

I want to personally thank John for everything he has done with the newsletter. John, thank you again for everything you have done.

### Part II

In case you were wondering if John was leaving the club, you are so wrong. He will still be active with BVARC and will helping the new editor try to fill his shoes. In fact, if you did not see his letter to the Board, he wrote:

“I will work fully with the then newly appointed editor, and for some time thereafter, to help with the transition and to ensure a seamless handover. I will not disappear and will be around to periodically assist, not only with the BEACON, but with BVARC in various other ways. I also look forward to, among other things, doing a lot more ham radio.”

Imagine that John wants to start playing ham radio!. What a wonderful thing for him to start doing. I know that the club and I wish him luck on doing that and hopefully he will finally get the coveted WAR award – Worked All Rigs.

Thank you again John for everything you did on the newsletter.

N5VCX

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## Field Day *Food*

The BVARC Food Team is gearing up for the 2023 Field Day! We are proud to announce our entire team is back this year! Daphne (**K5VQY**), Scott (**KD5FBA**), Lou Ann and Kelly (**KG5QJE**). We are committed to serving the best Field Day food yet! We need your help to make the food service a huge success this year. *Please fill out the “food” survey.* It will not take too long but will give us valuable information as we plan the menus. The QR code will take you to the survey. Thanks!

73,

The BVARC Food Team



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club**  
April 08<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 9:00 AM Via Videoconference  
**Board Members Present:**

- President – Mike Hardwick – N5VCX
- Vice President – Kori Rahman – WX5KR
- Rec. Secretary – Michael Manciaz – W5SPC
- Treasurer – Dave Ely – N5EKW
- Cor. Secretary – Jeff Greer – W5JEF
- 2 Yr. at Large (A) Director – Anthony Morones – W5LIC
- 2 Yr. at Large (B) Director – Drew Dasher – N1ER
- 1 Yr. at Large Director – Terry Leatherland – K5PGF

**Guest Present:**

- Eddie – NU5K
- John – K5IZO
- Richard – K5GOL
- Michael – KI5ZZC
- Rick – W5RH
- Ron – K5HM
- Greg S. – No Call

**Meeting:**

1. Call to Order: The President being the Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 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. Emergency Business: NONE
5. Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved with corrections for next BOD date as presented unanimously.
6. Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved as presented unanimously.
7. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was presented and approved pending changes.
8. Corresponding Secretary: Emails sent. Will check mailbox. Nothing follows.
9. Old Business:
  - a. Newsletter:
    - i. Motion to end newsletter (physical form)
    - ii. Vote: 6 No, 1 Yes. Motion not passed. Newsletter physical copy will continue.
  - b. Club Committee Types
    - i. By-laws enacted; President will appoint ad hoc committees.
  - c. Field Trip Coast Guard Communication Ellington Field
    - i. Tabled until May BOD meeting.
  - d. BOD meetings DATE / Time Change
    - i. Changed to Sunday before the General Meeting 5PM
  - e. Greater Houston HamFest Volunteers (Thank you gift)
    - i. Approved to purchase \$650, 100 patches.
  - f. Field Day
    - i. Report given as an update for upcoming Field Day.
10. New Business:
  - a. Report for new member session – Drew – N1ER
  - b. Net Tsar (Coordinator) will switch from Rick – W5RH to Mike – N5VCX.
  - c. Request for funding for BVARC events. Kori – WX5KR
  - d. Resignation of Recording Secretary – Michael – W5SPC
  - e. Incident discussed about a BVARC event.
11. Next Board of Directors Meeting Date: May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 5 PM on Zoom.
12. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:39 PM.

*Submitted By – Michael Manciaz – W5SPC (Recording Secretary)*

# BVARC Rag Chew Net

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

03/22/23, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, W5TKZ, W5VOM, KG5ICR, K5LJ, KI5HOC, W5ALW, N5VCM, K5TPC (Bellaire), NT5SM, KD5YOU, NV5B, AA0ST (Dickinson), W5RH, N5JRY, WD5L (T), KI5ZHE. (18 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 152, SN = 81, A = 8, K = 2 / Band Rpt: GOOD

03/29/23, K5LKJ (NCS), K5HEC, W5TKZ, KG5ICR, KI5HOC, K5TPC (Bellaire), K5LJ, W5VOM, KD5PUR (La Grange), W1BG (Katy), AA5OA (Pearcy, AR), N5VCM, KS5V (Katy), W5RH, KG5LJZ, KI5ZHD. (16 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 148, SN = 135, A = 5, K = 1 / Band Rpt: FAIR

04/05/23, K5LKJ (NCS), K5TPC (Bellaire), K5LJ, KG5ICR, KI5ZHD, KI5HOC, AA5OA (Pearcy, AR). (17 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 137, SN = 48, A = 12, K = 2 / Band Rpt: POOR

04/12/23, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, W1BG (Katy), W5VOM, K5LJ, W5TKZ, W5ALW, KI5HOC, K5TPC (Bellaire), N5JRY, W5RH, WD5BPC (League City). (12 Check-Ins)  
Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 143, SN = 120, A = 6, K = 1 / Band Rpt: GOOD

04/19/23, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, KI5HOC, W5TKZ, W5RDY, KG5ICR, W5VOM/5 (Port Lavaca), K5RBC (Lake Jackson), WW5PA/5 (T), K5TPC (Bellaire), AA5OA (Pearcy, AR), KI5ZHD. (12 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 153, SN = 112, 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 poor to good this month. Fire up the rig and learn what others are doing and share your experiences. Come join in the conversation each Wednesday evening.

Regards.

John K5LKJ



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CS**

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KB5YTA - Dwayne  
KB5OBB - Eddie Jr  
KF5RKJ - BLake  
W5LIC - Anthony

# The Radio Hotel – A Random Thought

by Rick Hiller – W5RH

Remember back to TRH November 2022 about the IARPA Antenna Challenge to increase the radiated output of an electrically small antenna? Well, I ran across a statement from Tom Rauch, W8JI\*, that drove home the point that this competition is going to be extremely interesting to observe. Tom says *“something we all should know and remember. It is impossible to have antenna gain without having a more directional pattern. In order to increase gain, an antenna must focus more and more radiation in certain directions and radiate less signal in other directions. Always.”*

I found his statement to be very true, of course, and got me to thinking further of just how the teams in this antenna challenge competition will increase the radiated output. From Tom’s statement it will come from more directivity performed in some ingenious way, i.e. controlled phasing / current distribution by using meta materials and controlling segments individually...my hypothesis. Increasing the drive power input to the antenna is another way to achieve this radiation increase. Assuming the PhD level of the minds concentrating on this challenge, I am sure they will come up with a few new and ingenious methodologies. I hope they tell us just how they accomplish the feat. It should be pretty cool. Stay tuned!

*\*Tom Rauch, W8JI, was the designer of the MFJ 259 series antenna analyzers. Check out his QRZ page and his web page full of antenna and other ham radio related information at <http://www.w8ji.com>*

*Next Time – Get Ready for WRTC – the Olympics of Ham Radio*

*The purpose of **The Radio Hotel** is to give you a practical kick start into exploring the workings of antenna systems Read up on antenna system theory to see how it all works together. You will be glad you did.*



Ham Radio at the ISS – And you thought your shack was disorganized!

## April VE - FCC TESTING SESSIONS RESULTS

For the April 1<sup>st</sup> test session at Bayland Park - we had 5 candidates and conducted 7 tests.

### New Licensees:

Hill, P. (Technician)  
Huddleston, J. (Technician)

### Upgrades:

KI5ZZC (General)  
KI5USR (General)  
KJ5AAI (Extra)  
N9EXU (Extra)

VEs in attendance – K5GOL, K5LJ, WM5N and WX5KR – **THANKS!**  
Congratulations to all!

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The next BVARC test session will be Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup>. **Pre-registration is required.**

For new licensees the testing fee, paid at the session is \$15. An additional \$35 license fee (totaling \$50), will be collected by the FCC separately for new, renewal and vanity calls. License upgrades **do not** pay the added \$35 fee, just the \$15 session fee.

### **YOUTH LICENSING INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

The ARRL has created a youth program (18 and under) to defray the licensing costs to a total of **\$5** (deducting the \$35 increase and \$10 off the \$15 VE session fee). See: <http://www.arrl.org/youth-licensing-grant-program>

Also, BVARC is implementing it's own program for **youth** licensing.

We'll provide a **new VHF/UHF transceiver (Baofeng, limited supply)** at the VE session, to youth that successfully pass their Technician test. This is the result of a very generous grant from a BVARC member

**Bottom line, a young person for \$5, can walk into a test session and walk out with a new radio and a pending license.**

\*\*\*

Examination sessions are held each month, usually on the same day as the Saturday BVARC Board meeting (most times, the first Saturday of the month). These sessions are at the Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074

Details for candidates are found at <https://bvarc.org/home/ham-radio-license-testing-houston/>

Pre-register to attend a test session at: <https://hamstudy.org/sessions/arrl/77008/inperson>

For questions, Email Mark Janzer, K5MGJ at ([k5mgj@yahoo.com](mailto:k5mgj@yahoo.com)).

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### **Museum Ships Weekend**

Planning and preparations for Museum Ships Weekend, June 3-5, are in full swing. It's one of BVARC's legacy annual operating events. It is a great introduction to operating in conditions like Field Day, in a non-competitive event. All members are welcome to participate. The event will be held at Seawolf Park on Pelican Island. We'll have up to three stations available for operations. Food and (non-alcoholic) beverages will be available. There will be limited overnight accommodations available on the Stewart for operators.

**We're planning for a mobilization party tentatively on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup>**, to repair some of the antennas and prepare for the June event. Contact Mark Janzer (K5MGJ), to express your interest and to help out.

## A PIECE OF HISTORY RETURNS

### HOUSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB IS BREATHING AGAIN - SORT OF

Submitted by Mike Hardwick, N5VCX

Many of the older members of BVARC have heard of Houston Amateur Radio Club, affectionally known as HARC. In the 1960's and 1970's it was one of the largest amateur radio clubs in the state with over five hundred members. HARC had its own "club house" and you could go by there any day of the week and find someone there. Several of the current BVARC members went to the club to practice their code and operate HF. I even went there in the late seventies for general classes which they would hold once a week (that is what a bad memory says).

Unfortunately, the club started to have membership problems in the early eighties and by the early nineties, the club was dissolved, sort of. It was put on life support and a member, John Moore, KK5NU, was the one that kept the life support equipment functioning.

Many years go by with HARC sitting in storage. I talked to John many times what to do with the name and the call since there was history with both. The history of HARC dates to December 1919 with only the Dallas Amateur Radio Club and the Austin Amateur Radio being older. HARC started only five years after ARRL was formed and John and I did not want that to go away.

Unfortunately, John passed away and my career kept me on the move which kept HARC on life support. However, when I was president of BVARC for the first time, I discussed with John an idea had about making HARC into something that would help the area ARC's. The idea was to have a "clearing house" that would help support all the greater Houston clubs by providing information and a way to share resources between each club.

John and a few others I talked to really like the idea and so in 2005 I held the first HARC – Houston Area Radio Club meeting. It was attended only by the presidents of ECHO, NARS and CLARC and BVARC. The idea was accepted, and everyone wanted to go into high gear. Unfortunately, it was not the right time, and the horse did not make it out of the gate.

Fast forward to 2020. I had been wanting to try and start the HARC idea again. So, with help from Jeff Greer, W5JEF and Ralph Phillips, KE5HDF it finally happened. E-mails were sent and clubs around the Houston area through their name in the hat. After several Zoom meetings and a couple of false starts HARC had its first organizational meeting last month.

We are now working on by-laws and hope to have elections by the first of July. HARC is no longer on life support and is slowly starting to learn to walk about. It will take time to get things rolling but will work to our favor since the purpose of HARC is to support the area clubs.

So, if you see Jeff or Ralph thank them for helping bring back an organization that is over one hundred years old.

Look for Part II in the next month or two, as this evolves.

N5VCX



## 2023 Officers:

President (2022-2023)

Michael Hardwick, N5VCX, [n5vcx@att.net](mailto:n5vcx@att.net)

Vice President (2023-2024)

Kori Rahman, WX5KR [kori113@gmail.com](mailto:kori113@gmail.com)

Recording Secretary (balance of 2022 – 2023)

Michael Manciaz -- W5SPC, [w5spctx@gmail.com](mailto:w5spctx@gmail.com)

Corresponding Secretary (2021-2022)

Jeff Greer, W5JEF, [greerjw@hotmail.com](mailto:greerjw@hotmail.com)

Treasurer (2021-2022)

David Ely, N5EKW, [Davidely@prodigy.net](mailto:Davidely@prodigy.net)

2 Year At-Large Board Member A: (2022-2023)

Anthony Morones, W5LIC, [W5lictx@gmail.com](mailto:W5lictx@gmail.com)

2 Year At-Large Board Member B: (2023-2024)

Drew Dasher, N1ER, [Adasher18@hotmail.com](mailto:Adasher18@hotmail.com)

1 Year At Large (2023)

Terry Leatherland, K5PGF, [K5pgf@yahoo.com](mailto:K5pgf@yahoo.com)

### Regularly Scheduled Club Happenings:

#### General Meeting

Both in person and zoom

Second Thursday each month. 7:00PM

Check [www.BVARC.org](http://www.BVARC.org) for more current info.

#### Board of Directors Meeting

The Saturday before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 9:00 AM

Both in-person and Zoom. CHECK THE WEBSITE as this might change.

Bayland Park Community Center

Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston.

Check [www.BVARC.org](http://www.BVARC.org) for more current info.

#### Volunteer Examiner Program

The monthly ham testing session takes place on the same day and location as the BOD Meeting, but at 10:30 AM. However, please check the BVARC website for any last minute changes or updates.

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

#### Rag Chew Net

3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

#### Public Service Net

Monday night on 146.94 (167.9) at 8:00 PM

Stir Crazy Net is held each weekday at noon. Check

[www.BVARC.org](http://www.BVARC.org) for current info.

Greater Houston Simplex Net 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, propagation net, 7:00 PM, on 146.54 MHz simplex and an alternate frequency of 147.54.

QuestionAIR every Tuesday at 7:00 PM on 146.94, negative (-) shift, PL Tone of 167.9.



## Advertising in the BVARC Newsletter

Rates are as follows: Business card sized ads are \$10 each or 6 monthly installments for \$50; Half (½) page -\$25 per monthly for \$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

### SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

IHOP, 7:00a.m., SW Freeway inbound service road, near Kirkwood.

### OTHER HAM GROUPS:

#### WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH

This group meets weekly at Luby's Cafeteria, W. Airport & FM-1092 (Murphy Rd). 11AM.

### WEDNESDAYS – AMSAT & QRP GROUP

This too is not available at press time. If anyone has information on this, please let the Editor know.



## Hamfests

(Typically within 200 miles of Houston)

### 06/16/2023 - 06/17/2023

#### Radio Fiesta

Location: Schertz, TX

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: San Antonio Radio Club

Website: <https://w5sc.org/radio-fiesta/>

### 07/08/2023 - Texas City Tidelands Hamfest

Location: Texas City, TX

Type: ARRL Hamfest

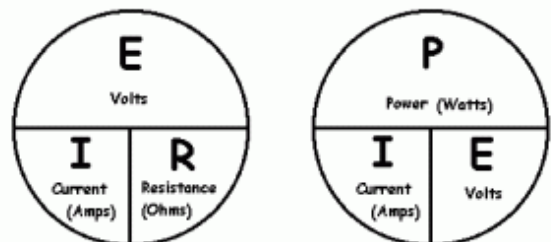
Sponsor: Tidelands Amateur Radio Society

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



## And in case you don't remember

### Ohm's Law



# 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 both in-person and via ZOOM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:30 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 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.

A Public Service Net is held each Monday at 8 p.m. on the 146.94 (minus offset, PL 167.9 tone) repeater.

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.

The QuestionAIR Net is held every Tuesday at 7:00 PM on 146.94, negative (-) shift, PL Tone of 167.9.

To obtain information about joining **BVARC** or its activities, see the BVARC website: [www.bvarc.org](http://www.bvarc.org)

Other contacts include:

President:, Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, [n5vcx@att.net](mailto:n5vcx@att.net)

Newsletter Editor, John Chauvin, K5IZO, [k5izo@yahoo.com](mailto:k5izo@yahoo.com)

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May 2023

**BRAZOS VALLEY  
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

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General Membership Meeting – May 11, 2023



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