



BVARC BEACON

Newsletter of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY



VOLUME 47 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2023

December General Membership Meeting Notice

Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 7:30 PM

Community Volunteer Fire Department Conference Center, 16005 Bellaire Blvd and via Zoom

Mike Lambert, K15MIK, will talk about "Backup Power, from Chasing Gasoline to Sun & Batteries." In 2019 to 2020 Mike put together an elaborate system of batteries and solar panels to make sure he could run his ice cream maker during the COVID times. Come out to see Mike's system that he put together. If you cannot make the meeting, it will be on ZOOM. The ZOOM address will be sent out the weekend before the general meeting.

Holiday Donations

In the Spirit of Christmas, BVARC would like to support other charitable organizations. At the December General Meeting, we will be collecting donations. If you would like to donate to any of these causes, please bring your item(s) with you on December 14th. We will provide more information at the general meeting.

If you would like to donate, please bring the donations in the following arrangement.

Toys for Tots: any unwrapped toy

Houston Food Bank: canned goods or nonperishable items

Military Care Packages: games, cards, snacks, stationery, handwritten notes and cards, necessities, etc.

If you need additional information, please reach out to Daphne Rawlinson, K5VQY, daphne_rawlinson@hotmail.com. As always, thank you for your continued support. Happy Holidays!

Election Results

The BVARC elections and chili supper had a great turnout this year. I want to thank everyone that participated in the election from all the members that came out, to the members that stepped up to be candidates for the election, to Rick Hiller, W5RH, and the election committee that counted the votes and finally to Daphne Rawlinson, K5VQY and the BVARC cooking team. The club would not survive without the energy that everyone put forth for the meeting.

Members cast a total of eighty-one votes to elect three new members of the Board of Directors:

Recording Secretary	Sean Linkenheimer	N5LNK
Two-Year Director	Philippe Boucaumont	K5BOU
One-Year Director	Daphne Rawlinson	K5VQY

I want to welcome these new members to the BVARC Board. I appreciate the three of you stepping up to help with management of BVARC and I am ready to work with all of you on keeping BVARC a growing club.

I want thank Terry Leatherland, K5PGF for his time on the board as a one-year director. His time on the BOD was beneficial to the club and will not go unnoticed.

And finally, I want to thank the club for your confidence in me by electing me for another two-year term as club president. I will continue to support BVARC and the amateur radio community. – N5VCX

2024 BVARC Awards Banquet

January 18th, 2024, Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet Street, Houston 77074

Meet and greet starting at 5:45 PM, Dinner served at 6:30 PM, until 8:30 PM

The cost for the banquet for members and one guest will be \$35 per person. Non-members or a second guest will be \$50 per person. Tickets are available at the BVARC.org PayPal link. The menu will be on the BVARC web site so you can choose your entrée when you purchase your ticket. If you do not choose when you purchase your ticket, please send an e-mail no later than January 3rd, 2024, to n5vcx@att.net with your selection.

The banquet, besides having great food, is a time to honor club members that have excelled helping the club and supporting amateur radio. Besides awards of appreciation and presidential certificates, awards are also presented to those members that have excelled in their service over the past year (this time it will be two years since there was no banquet last year). The awards are:

The LOOP AND ZEPP – A club member excels on promoting HF operation

The K1JT – A club member excels on promoting VHF and UHF operation

The DOCTOR BILL – A club member excels in their service for amateur radio testing

The ORDER OF THE KEY – The club's highest honor - A club member excels in supporting amateur radio and the club.

If you would like to nominate someone for an award, please let someone on the board of directors know. All nominations must be received no later than January 3rd, 2024. There can be multiple winners of all awards except for the Order of the Key. If you have any questions about the awards, please contact me or Rick Hiller, W5RH. Let's give those who promote various aspects of the hobby the recognition they deserve.

Menu

*Entrée (choose one by January 3rd): Pan Seared Catfish or Grilled Chicken Breast
Wild Rice Pilaf, Sautéed Green Beans, Glazed Carrots
Garden Salad with Mixed Greens and Ranch or Italian Salad Dressing
Rolls, Chewy Brownies, Vanilla Cake, Flavored Iced Tea*

Meet and Greet Menu

5:45 PM – 6:30 PM

Charcuterie Boards, Chips with Dips, Lemonade

BVARC Pre-POTA Rag Chew Net — Saturday December 16th around 8 PM, near 7.265 MHz

Our monthly BVARC POTA event now has a 40m HF net that precedes it the night before at 8 PM. The frequency is not set in stone and should be somewhere **near 7.265MHz**, so if you don't hear them there, turn that VFO dial up or down a few kHz until you find them or try finding them using the NetLogger program.

BVARC POTA at Sheldon Lake State Park — Sunday December 17th, 10 AM to 4 PM Sheldon Lake State Park, 14140 Garrett Rd, Houston, TX 77044

For our December BVARC POTA event we will be heading out to another new park for the club, Sheldon Lake State Park & Environmental Learning Center. The hours at this park are a little shorter than usual, so we will be at the park from 10 AM until about 4 PM so we can pack up before they close at 5 PM. We don't anticipate too many mosquitoes this time around (but we will have bug spray if needed). It should be a great time with friends and we'll be cooking up some sausages with chips and drinks. Please come on down and join the club for this fantastic event where we get to be outdoors and get on the radio. As usual we will have radios and an antenna provided, but if you would like to bring out your own equipment you're more than welcome to do so.

December Brews with BVARC — Tuesday December 12th at 6:30 PM Texas Leaguer Brewing Company, 13503 Pike Rd, Missouri City, TX 77489

The next Brews with BVARC will be on Tuesday December 12th at 6:30 PM. We will be heading back to Texas Leaguer Brewing Company in Missouri City! This is our last destination of the year and our Brews with BVARC "committee" voted this spot our top location for 2023. Our last time at TLBC had one of the highest attendances and was an absolute blast so we will be visiting them again to round out our tour of the Houston area this year. As always, arrive when you can, be safe, be responsible, and let's have fun! See you there.

CQ, Panama Canal – by K5HM

With the bands alive in Cycle 25 this year, so is the contest activity. Hey! That rhymes! A lot of individuals and clubs are getting on the air. They may lack contest experience, but their enthusiasm makes up for it.

There are a variety of groups vying for your attention out there. In addition to the worldwide contests, there are many local clubs getting active with Parks on the Air or Summits on the Air. But have you tried the more esoteric of them? WOTA (Walmarts on the Air) or PHOTA (Pancake House on the Air)? That is a lively crowd.



If you are King, like King Mswati III, you can even rename your country to create a new DX entity in Africa. King Mswati III recently renamed the former Swaziland as Eswatini, giving it a very Internet like name. He nearly bankrupted the country because he also needed to create new currency, and postage stamps. What? Is he kidding? Is that some kind of special event station? No, but it is good to be king.

There are plenty of events like the Battle of Carabobo International Contest; the Amplitude Modulation QSO Party or the COVID-19 Contest.

You might hear some strange QSO's on the air this year as hams work to earn the DXCC Diamond Challenge, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the DXCC award. To earn the award, you must contact 100 or more of the countries that were on the first DXCC list 75 years ago.

Many countries that existed in 1937 no longer exist. That created some interesting challenges when pursuing this award. The ARRL has a list of current entities to represent former countries from 1937 on their website. Work Ethiopia to get credit for Abyssinia. For the former Belgian Congo, you can work Democratic Republic of the Congo (9Q), Burundi (9U) or Rwanda (9X). How easy is that! The city of Kaliningrad (RF2), which is its own DXCC entity today but politically part of Russia, gives you credit for 1937 Germany, when it was known as Konigsberg. There are some oddities in the list.

My personal favorite was the Canal Zone (formerly KZ5), which of course is now part of Panama. To qualify for the Canal Zone credit, you had to work a Panamanian (HP) station that is within 8 kilometers of the canal.

How would that work? You might try, "CQ, CQ, Panama Canal within 8 KM" Or "CQ HP <= 8KM de the Canal" Try that on CW or RTTY!

This is one recent phone contact:

ME: QRZ, QRZ HP only.

[I'm thinking. Maybe I'll get lucky.]

HP Station: HI OM UR 59 here, Name is Ralf. BTU.

[Hmm...So far, so good...]

ME: Thanks for coming back to me Ralf. What is your exact QTH? Are you within 8 KM of the canal? Over.

HP Ralf: What canal? UR 59 hr too. Over.

[I'm thinking maybe Ralf is really in Honduras (HR) or he needs a map.]

ME: The Panama Canal, you know, the big ditch where all the boats go. BTU Ralf.

HP Station: Oh, that canal. I don't know. I haven't looked lately. Does that matter? BTW, WX is blah, blah,



blah. Rig here is blah, blah, blah. Antenna is blah, blah, blah. Do you want my Grid Square? How about you? Over.

[Obviously Ralf missed the e-mail. Let's cut to the chase Ralf.]

ME: That's great Ralf. Yes, it's for a new DXCC award.

Ralf: Man, I never heard of that one! That's some crazy award. I don't do kilometers; how many feet is that?

[ARGHH! OK, maybe we are getting somewhere at last.]

ME: Its about 26,200 feet. Over.

HP Ralf: Sorry OM, there was some bad QRM that time. A lot of guys are calling me like I'm some rare DX suddenly. Say again, how many feet is that?

[Panic is setting in.]

ME: 26,200. 26 Two zero zero.

HP Ralf: That is a lot of feet dude. Don't think I have a tape measure that long. Do you mean from the center of the canal?

[Getting desperate.]

ME: Can you just estimate?

HP Ralf: You mean guess? I guess so.

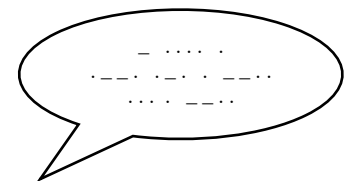
ME: Cool, Good enough for me. Got you in the log. Thanks Ralf. 73

You didn't need confirmations, it was on the honor system. You can find the rules at <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-diamond-dxcc-challenge>.

Good Luck and have fun. 73, Ron, K5HM

The Prez Says

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. And what great turnout for the election and chili supper! Everyone really came together to make the November meeting one of the most attended in a long time. I want to thank everyone that came out to the meeting and participated in the election. The Board has three new members for the next two years.



I want to thank Sean, Philippe, and Daphne for stepping up to be on the BVARC Board of Directors. I know their knowledge and experience will benefit the club and the amateur radio community. I want to thank Terry Leatherland, K5PGF for his time on the Board. His time was beneficial to the club and will not go unnoticed. And finally, I want to thank the club for electing me for another term as club president. I will continue to support BVARC and the amateur radio community. More information is elsewhere in the newsletter.

Mark on your calendar the December 14th meeting with a presentation from Mike Lambert, KI5MIK.

The BVARC annual awards will be coming up on Thursday, January 18, 2024. Make sure you send in your recommendations for awards and menu entrée selections no later than January 3rd to n5vcx@att.net.

Besides the general meeting, the month will be busy with two other club events. The December **Brews with BVARC** is Tuesday the 12th. The monthly **Parks on the Air** is Sunday the 17th. More details are in this newsletter, and for more information contact Kori Rahman WX5KR at kori113@gmail.com or Anthony Morones W5LIC at w5lictx@gmail.com.

Do not forget the Houston Chevron Marathon coming up on January 14th, 2024. Over 150 operators are needed to support the marathon and half marathon for communications. Support will also be needed on the 13th for a 5K run as well. If you would like to get involved, contact Lee Gaspard, WA5QXE, wa5qxe@arrl.net, 713-248-8853 cell, or Rick Broussard, N5KJN [n5kjin@swbell.net]. Come out and put your radio and license to a great use!

There are many public service events in the Houston area. Another one that you can volunteer for is the Texas MS150 bike ride on April 27th and 28th, 2024. This is a two-day bike ride event starting in Houston and Austin with an overnight in La Grange, finishing in College Station. There are many positions available. If you would like to get involved and put your radio and license to a great use, contact Jeff Walter, KE5FGA at jawalter6@comcast.net or myself at n5vcx@att.net.

Finally, the Greater Houston HamFest is coming up on March 1st and 2nd, 2024. Organizational meetings have started, and committees are being formed. If you would like to help, contact me, and let me know.

Hope to see everyone at the December meeting. Have a great Holiday! Get ready to have lots of chocolate!

73, N5VCX

The Radio Hotel FT8 - A Change of Attitude

by Rick Hiller – W5RH

I grew up in last century's Amateur Radio world with CW and SSB being my friends. No AM or RTTY for me. Rag chew QSO's were the mainstay of operation and DX country count chasing mostly being done with "5 9 Texas" type exchanges. When the new digital modes came along I found them to be more like RTTY. Legit, but still not my cup of tea. Then came the JT modes being utilized for EME work and for EME that made perfect sense, but I still didn't partake. When JT moved to FT and into the normal HF modes of short QSO's for DX'ing and contesting I found it totally uninteresting. Working stations you can't hear? No thanks. My ears and brain were my information demodulators and I liked it that way.

But then, just recently, along comes Gerald Youngblood, K5SDR, the founder, CEO and top notch SDR guru from Flex Radio in Austin writing an opinion piece that I just happened to stumble across. It can be found here:

<https://www.flexradio.com/insider/articles/ft8-tipping-point-for-ham-radio/>

As he, I too had received my novice license over 50 years ago and met the technical challenges with excitement and wonder. But I stayed the on-air course of CW and SSB that I had set, varying little, only diving deep into the world of antenna systems that supported my on-air ops. Gerald, on the other hand, went with the flow toward leading edge technology.

He references a book about "The Tipping Point" – a critical point in time and technological development beyond which a significant and often unstoppable effect or change takes place. As he puts it, "The tipping point is that magic moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire." He sees the phenomena of FT 8 being just that tipping point and questions whether it is positive or negative. Some think FT modes will kill amateur radio and others believe that such innovations give the hobby new life. He discusses the opinion of many that FT modes will be the end to Amateur Radio. I personally didn't see that FT8 based demise, but I still had no interest. He points out that FT8 is a weak signal application, not a low power application and highlights a few benefits of the mode. Such as:

- FT8 counters the recently current dearth of sunspots
- FT8 opens "dead bands"
- FT8 lets little pistols work DXCC like a big gun
- FT8 lets you work the world from small or deed restricted lots
- FT8 lets you work weak signal DX without proficient CW skills
- FT8 lets you work DXCC on 160m without a big station
- FT8 is amazing and literally space age technology

Yes, FT8 is mostly automated and it reduces the skill required to make DX contacts. It also removes conversation and the human factor from the QSO, but that is true of the majority of DX chasing in any mode. Now here is where he gets to the core of the matter and pulls at my heart strings. He states, that it is his opinion that FT8 is at the very heart of what amateur radio has been about from its inception – *amateurs who love the art of radio enhancing the art of radio*. The FCC in Part 97.1 lists the five tenets that define amateur radio, the second one being: "*Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.*" I had forgotten this part of the definition, as to what makes my favorite hobby possible. FT8, as I now see it, is an example of what will keep it alive and relevant. What will kill amateur radio is if we cease to innovate, become old and grumpy, and no longer bring new blood into the hobby. Unfortunately, I have for some time now resembled that remark. But with a new onus, I now intend to change.

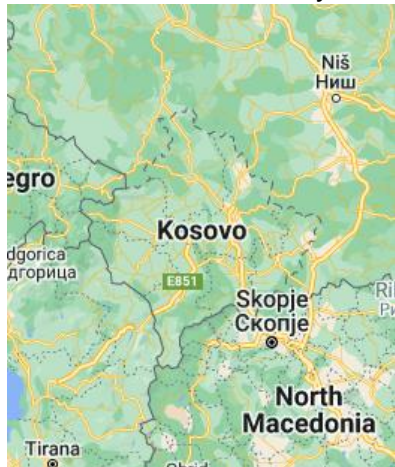
A new year is right around the corner and is prime for me to venture into the wonderful world of DX'ing behind a computer. A lot to learn, but as Gerald says, "FT modes are great all of the time and there will be times of phone and CW QSOs when the numbers are right". In my mind now, these are the best of both worlds. For me, a 'not too late' necessary change in attitude. I hope one for you too. FT8? Indeed, as I explore my sixth decade of interest in shortwave radio. Thanks, Gerald.

Enjoy your hobby, 73....Rick W5RH

The Z6 Mystery – by K5HM

Ah, the good old days when men were men and call signs were whatever you wanted. That is apparently what happened in Kosovo.

This tiny country recently declared itself independent from Serbia in 2008 for reasons we are all probably are aware. Without waiting for full diplomatic recognition, the government of Kosovo assigned itself the Z6 prefix and has issued several amateur radio licenses. Kosovo won its battle to become a DXCC entity in 2018. But the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has



determined that the Z6 call sign prefix was never allocated to Kosovo. The Secretary-General issued his finding in the wake of a March 16 inquiry from Serbia, from which Kosovo declared independence 10 years ago, the last piece of the former Yugoslavia to do so. Serbia has continued to reject Kosovo's secession.

The assignment of a prefix goes hand in hand with the recognition of the sovereignty of a new state by the United Nations. Ninety-two UN member states recognize Kosovo as an independent state, including the United States, Britain, France, and 22 European countries. Because of Russia and China, nations with veto power in the Security Council of the United Nations, Kosovo can not currently be accepted among the countries of the UN.

The procedure for assigning a prefix for amateur radio goes hand in hand with the Civil Aviation Authority. The ITU works in tandem with the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization). By international agreement, aircraft tail numbers use the same prefix as radio call signs.

So, what is the status of Z6? The IARU (International Amateur Union) has still not recognized Kosovo as a separate nation because of its dispute with Serbia. However, it is yet to be determined if the ITU will recognize the Z6 call signs as legal, since Kosovo is not yet fully recognized as a sovereign state. It is recognized as a DXCC entity for DXCC credit. Meantime Kosovo joins a short list of DXCC entities where radio amateurs use "unofficial" call sign prefixes. The list also includes Western Sahara (S0) and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (1A).

Reporting from the Dark Side,
Ron, K5HM

POTA or Parks on the Air continues to be a strong drawing card for newbys and older hams. POTA, for those who don't know, was a radio activity following the VERY successful NPOTA (National Parks on the Air) event ARRL sponsored in 2016 to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the National Parks System. Individuals operated from National Parks and Monuments all over the United States and Territories. Jeff KC5TT and Yours Truly KD5FBA had a friendly competition during that year to work as many NPOTA qualified entities as we could with each of us amassing over 200 each.

In 2017, along came POTA with the addition of State Parks, Monuments and Conservation Areas. Once again mostly individuals, groups of friends and spouses began visiting state parks and state properties in addition to the original National Parks properties that are recognized by the POTA organization. All modes and bands are available, meaning all license classes may participate. Land-based repeaters are NOT eligible. Satellites are frequently used and encouraged.

Most operators who activate parks are individuals rather than clubs, however some groups of friends will activate parks out of the friendship that ham radio operators are famous for rotating in turn each giving their call signs so that each receive credit for contacts. Each operator will then submit their own log. I now have friends in several states that I first met as they activated while I hunted a park. At the present time, I have both activated and hunted parks. My totals are nowhere near the top as a hunter even though I presently have credit for over 2100 park entities all on voice modes.

POTA is a special interest group and growing. Remember that it is a facet of ham radio along with rag-chewing, contesting, antenna building, kit-building and others.

ARRL recently published a "New Book" on parks on the air and may be purchased from a number of sources. Check it out. — Scott Medbury, KD5FBA

MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

November 5th, 2023 5:00 PM Via Videoconference

Board Members Present:

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

Guests Present:

- Chris AC5CM
- Rick W5RH
- Mike KI5NP
- Anthony W5LIC

Meeting:

1. **Establishment of a Quorum:** A business quorum of Board Members was established.
2. **Call to Order:** The President called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM.
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.
6. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the previous Board of Directors meeting were approved as presented.
7. **Approval of Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report was presented and tabled pending corrections.
8. **Corresponding Secretary:** Corresponding Secretary's report was presented.
9. **Old Business:**
 - Life Member badges are going out (in batches).
 - **Programs**
 - i. November – Elections/Chili Supper
 1. President
 2. 2-Yr. at Large Director
 3. 1-Yr. at Large Director
 4. Recording Secretary
 - ii. December – Battery Packs
 - iii. January – Annual Awards Banquet will be held on January 18th
 1. \$1000 expenditure approval tabled pending spreadsheet
 - Committees
10. **New Business:**
 - \$15,000 expenditure approved for Hamfest.
 - Chris AC5CM approved interim 2 Yr. at Large Director (through December 2023)
11. **Next BoD Meeting Date:** December 10th at 5 PM on Zoom.
12. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned 6:05 PM.

NOVEMBER VE - FCC TESTING SESSIONS RESULTS

For the November 4th test session at Bayland Park - we had 3 candidates and conducted 4 tests.

New Licensee:

Peguero Iguina, Jose, A (Technician)

Upgrades

KI5YXK (General)

VEs in attendance – K5GOL, K5LJ, KG4NDS, N1ER, WX5KR, K5IZO and NK5Q – **THANKS!**

Congratulations to All!

The next BVARC test session will be **Saturday December 9th** at 10:30 AM. **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 its 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).



December 2023 – Amateur Radio Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
P: Pub Svc Net 8 PM Mondays Q: QuestionAIR Net 7 PM Tuesdays		R: Rag Chew 7 PM Wednesdays S: Stir Crazy Net Noon Mon-Fri			1 S	2
3	4 P S	5 Q S	6 R S	7 S	8 S	9 FCC Testing Bayland Park 10:30 AM
10 BVARC Board Mtg 5 PM – Zoom	11 P S	12 Q S Brews w/ BVARC @ Texas Leaguer 6:30 PM	13 R S	14 S BVARC General Meeting 7 PM	15 S	16 <i>Bayland Park Classroom</i> Available 9A-1P
17 POTA Sheldon Lake State Park 10 AM-4 PM	18 P S	19 Q S	20 R S	21 S	22 S	23
24	25 P S	26 Q S	27 R S	28 S	29	30
31						

BVARC Rag Chew Net

10/25/23, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, K5LJ, K5TPC (Bellaire), K5RBC (Lake Jackson), W5BOZ (Fulshear), KI5HOC, AA5OA (Percy, AR), W5LIC (Bellaire), KI5RLZ (Channelview (T), W5VOM, W5RH, AA0ST (Springfield, MO). (13 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 121, SN = 26, A = 4, K = 0 / Band Rpt: GOOD

11/01/23, K5LKJ (NCS), W5VOM, W5LIC (Bellaire), KI5RLZ (Channelview)(T), K5LJ, W5TKZ, K5AKM (Alexandria, LA), K5RBC (Lake Jackson), W5ALW, K5TPC (Bellaire), KI5HOC, W5RH, AA5OA (Percy, AR), K5BBC, W5SV, N5VCX. (16 Check-Ins)
Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 147, SN = 94, A = 9, K = 2 / Band Rpt: FAIR

11/08/23, K5LKJ (NCS), K5AKM (Alexandria, LA), KI5HOC, W5TKZ, K5LJ, AA5OA (Percy, AR), K5TPC (Bellaire), W5LIC (Bellaire), KD5YOU, NT5SM, W5ALW, KJ5BGL (Manvel), KJ5CAP (Angleton). (15 Check-Ins)
Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 146, SN = 92, A = 19, K = 4 / Band Rpt: FAIR

11/15/23, K5LKJ (NCS), AB5YS (Harrisonburg, LA), W5TKZ, W5RH, KI5HOC, W5ALW, K5RBC (Lake Jackson), AA0ST (Springfield, MO), N5VCX, W5LIC (Bellaire), W5BOZ (Fulshear), W5VOM, AA5OA (Percy, AR)(T). (13 Check-Ins)
Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 124, SN = 41, A = 6, K = 3 / Band Rpt: GOOD

(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 your experiences. Come join in the conversation each Wednesday evening. Regards. John K5LKJ

2024 Club Officers (as of 1/1/2024)

President (2024-2025)

Michael Hardwick N5VCX n5vcx@att.net

Vice President (2023-2024)

Kori Rahman WX5KR kori113@gmail.com

Recording Secretary (2024-2025)

Sean Linkenheimer N5LNK sean.N5LNK@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary (2023-2024)

Jeff Greer W5JEF greerjw@hotmail.com

Treasurer (2023-2024)

David Ely N5EKW davidely@prodigy.net

2 Year At-Large Board Member A (2024-2025)

Philippe Boucaumont K5BOU philippe@K5BOU.net

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

Drew Dasher N1ER adasher18@hotmail.com

1 Year At Large (2024)

Daphne Rawlinson K5VQY daphne_rawlinson@hotmail.com



Hamfests Near Houston

3/1/2024 - 3/2/2024

Greater Houston HamFest and ARRL West Gulf Division Convention

Location: Rosenberg, TX

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

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

5/19/2024 – 5/21/2024

Dayton Hamvention & ARRL EXPO

Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center

120 Fairground Road, Xenia, Ohio 45385



Amateur Radio Events Near Houston

BVARC POTA 12/17/2023 10 AM – 4 PM

Sheldon Lake State Park & Environmental Learning Center

14140 Garrett Rd, Houston, TX 77044-6418



ROCS

River Oaks Car Stereo

Since 1990

4129 Richmond Ave

Houston TX 77027

713-626-7627 -

help@riveroakscarstereo.com

riveroakscarstereo.com

NUSK - Eddie
KBSYTA - Dwayne
KBSOBB - Eddie Jr
KFSRKJ - BLake
W5LIC - Anthony

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 per year, with student dues \$10 per year, additional family members \$5 per member per year.

Club meetings are both in-person and via Zoom on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. If you have signed up for the email reflector, you will receive notice and the attendance password, etc. It will also be on the website a few days beforehand.

BVARC amateur radio testing 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** please check the BVARC website for any changes.

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

A "Stir Crazy Net" is also held weekdays at 12 Noon on the 146.94 (minus offset, PL 167.9 tone) repeater.

A rag chew net is held each Wednesday at 7 PM on 3910 KHz +/- 3 KHz.

The QuestionAIR Net is held every Tuesday at 7:30 PM on the 146.94 (minus offset, PL 167.9 tone) repeater.

To obtain information about joining BVARC or its activities, see the BVARC website: www.bvarc.org

Other contacts: **BVARC President** Mike Hardwick N5VCX n5vcx@att.net, **Newsletter Editor** Donovan Balli KG5BDZ dballi@mail.com, **Editor Emeritus** John Chauvin K5IZO k5izo@yahoo.com, **Newsletter Printing, Assembly, and Mailing** Mike Hardwick N5VCX n5vcx@att.net, Jeff Greer W5JEF greerjw@hotmail.com, Gokhan Koralturk KG0KHN gokkor@gmail.com

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**BRAZOS VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 2997
SUGAR LAND, TX 77487-2997**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

Board of Directors Meeting – 5 PM Sunday, December 10, 2023, via Zoom

General Membership Meeting – 7:30 PM Thursday, December 14, 2023

Parks on the Air BVARC POTA – 10 AM – 4 PM Sunday, December 17, 2023 at Sheldon Lake State Park

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