



BVARC BEACON



Newsletter of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

VOLUME 48 ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2024

General Membership Meeting August 8th at 7:30 PM

Annual Ice Cream Social presented by the BVARC Food Team

Community Volunteer Fire Department Community Center, 16005 Bellaire Blvd, Houston 77083

September program will be "Don't Feed the Squirrels" by Mike Williams KK5SC, on the topic of dealing with repeater jammers. Last month's meeting and presentation were canceled due to Hurricane Beryl.

August 2024 – Amateur Radio Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
P: Pub Svc Net 8 PM Mondays R: Rag Chew, 3910 kHz, 7 PM Wednesdays S: Stir Crazy Net Noon Monday-Friday T: 10-10 Int'l Local SHOT Net, 8 PM Tuesdays				1 S	2 S	3 BVARC Board Mtg 5 PM Zoom VE Testing 10:30 AM Bayland Park
4	5 P S	6 Q S T Brews w/ BVARC	7 R S	8 S BVARC Mtg 7:30 PM	9 S	10
11	12 P S	13 Q S T	14 R S	15 S	16 S Baytown Hamfest vendor setup	17 Baytown Hamfest 7:00 AM
18	19 P S	20 Q S T	21 R S	22 S	23 S	24
25	26 P S	27 Q S T	28 R S	29 S	30 S	31

Baytown Hamfest 2024, Baytown Youth Fairgrounds, 7900 N. Main, Baytown TX 77521. <https://earstx.org/baytown-hamfest-2024>
Saturday August 17 from 7 AM to 1:30 PM. Admission \$10.

AUGUST Brews with BVARC: Texas Leaguer Brewing Company, 13503 Pike Rd, Missouri City, TX 77489 from 6:30 PM – 10 PM.



KK5W Multi-Club Field Day 2024 – The score submitted to the ARRL through the web app was 20,604, pending review by the ARRL. Total QSO's were 5319 with 2983 CW, 1015 Digital, and 1321 Phone. Total bonus points were 1970. For comparison, in 2022 the score was 17,442 with 4318 QSO's and in 2023 the score was 20,638 with 5308 QSO's. Thank you to Rick Hiller W5RH for submitting the report, and all those who participated.

BVARC reserves a four-hour block for training or programs at Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St, Houston, TX 77074. If you would like to do a program or have a training class, please contact Mike Hardwick, N5VCX at n5vcx@att.net to reserve your date. The classroom is available from 9 AM to 1 PM. The reservation is free to the club and any member can use it.

Available Dates in 2024: August 17 September 21 October 19 November 23 December 28

HAMFEST BAYTOWN

Swap Meet | Meet n Greet/Rag chew

WHEN
August 16th and 17th, 2024
Overnight RV parking on Friday

WHERE
Baytown Youth Fairgrounds
7900 N. Main, Baytown, TX 77521



Back at our old location



Talk in on 145.310
PL Tone - 167.9



FEES:

General Admission: \$10.00
Flea Market Tables: \$15.00
Inside Vendor Table: \$15.00

Pick your table and pay upon arrival
Tables with electricity \$20.00 (limited first come-first service)
Tailgaters: Limited free space

Set up as early as Friday afternoon at 2 pm.

*Military/Emergency in uniform and under 12 free

HAMFEST EVENT SCHEDULE

- 0600-0700 - Setup: Dealers & Tailgating
- 0700-1330 — Hamfest open for flea market, dealers and tailgaters
- 1230 - Grand Prize Drawings
- ~1330 —Close

CONCESSIONS

Coffee—Donations accepted
Food Truck will be onsite on Saturday only

**DOOR PRIZES, RAFFLES,
GIVE-AWAYS AND MORE...**

TBD—check website for updates

Event Chairman
Lamar KCSAOI
832-472-7474

EARS President
David NESTX
832-876-8363

SPONSORS



FOR MORE INFO, VISIT [HTTP://EARSTX.ORG](http://EARSTX.ORG)

Special Thanks to our repeater trustees: David NESTX and Greg N5KND

Waves & Coffee – The Hertzian Dipole antenna.

What is it all about & should we care about it?

By Stephen W2WF

Continuing what we saw in the last installment of this column, we will now look at a dipole antenna in the far field. Specifically we shall look at a very small dipole antenna from far away so that we can make some approximations in the math. This very small dipole antenna, relative to the wavelength of the transmitted wave, has historical significance since it was exactly what Heinrich Hertz studied back in 1888. In his honor it is called the “Hertzian Dipole” antenna.

Note that in 1888 when Hertz was studying this in Karlsruhe, Germany, Maxwell’s equations had only been discovered 23 years earlier. Also, note that Guglielmo Marconi would not do his first transatlantic transmission from Cornwall, England to Newfoundland, Canada for another 13 years. So Hertz was doing cutting edge experimental physics at that time.

It’s particularly interesting to note what Hertz is quoted as saying of his first transmission of radio waves:

"It's of no use whatsoever, this is just an experiment that proves Maestro Maxwell was right - we just have these mysterious electromagnetic waves that we cannot see with the naked eye. But they are there."

So, let’s look at the physics that we now understand were at play for Mr. Hertz’ very small dipole antenna. Note that the math in this article may get to be a bit involved, so if you’re keen on a challenge, let’s plow ahead!

For the rest of this article please access this link: <https://bvarc.org/home/tech-downloads/>



BVARC Rag Chew Net

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

06/26/24, K5LKJ (NCS), K5LJ, K5AKM (Alexandria, LA), W5TKZ, K5RBC (Lake Jackson), KG5ICR, N5VCX, W5VOM. (8 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 194, SN = 135, A = 9, K = 2 / Band Rpt: FAIR

07/03/24, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, K5LJ, W5RH/5 (Old Sabine Town), KG5ICR, KI5HOC, AA5OA (Pearcy, AR), W5ALW, K5RBC (Lake Jackson). (9 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 164, SN = 182, A = 10, K = 1 / Band Rpt: FAIR

07/10/24, K5LKJ (NCS), K5LJ, W5ALW, AA5OA (Pearcy, AR)(T), KG5ICR. (5 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 180, SN = 143, A = 6, K = 1 / Band Rpt: FAIR

07/17/24, K5LKJ (NCS), K5LJ, KI5HOC, N5JRY. (4 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 224, SN = 275, A = 6, K = 1 / Band Rpt: FAIR

(M) = mobile (P) = Portable (R) = Relay (RCS) = remote controlled station (T) = telephone check-in

Net conditions have been 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

HAM EXAM QUESTION

At what level below a signal's mean power level is its bandwidth determined according to FCC rules?

A. 3 dB B. 6 dB C. 23 dB D. 26 dB

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Minutes

Note: there was no board meeting in July due to Hurricane Beryl.



JULY VE - FCC TESTING SESSIONS RESULTS

For the July 6th test session at Bayland Park - we had 3 candidates and conducted 7 tests

New Licensees:

Burciu, L (General) KJ5HDQ
Evans, B (General) KJ5HDO
Scheel, S (Technician) KJ5HEK

VEs in attendance – K4USN, K5GOL, N1ER, K5LJ, and KG5ICR – **THANKS!**
Congratulations to All!

The next BVARC test session will be **Saturday, August 3rd** at 10:30am.

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 donation (Dec. '23) from a BVARC member, THANKS!

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, most times the first weekend of the month and usually on the same weekend as the Sunday BVARC Board meeting. These testing 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).

Ham Exam Answer: D. 26 dB, as defined in 97.3(a)(8).

Last month's Ham Exam Answer was inadvertently left out of the newsletter.

The answer was: B. To avoid reducing the downlink power to all other users.



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
WSLIC - Anthony

BVARC EVENTS

Saturday Breakfast 6:30 AM, IHOP Stafford 12725 Southwest Fwy, Stafford, TX 77477

Wednesday Lunch Bunch 11 AM to Noon, Luby's Cafeteria 10575 W Airport Blvd, Stafford, TX 77477

Brews w/ BVARC Aug 6, 6:30 PM, Texas Leaguer Brewing Company, 13503 Pike Rd, Missouri City, TX 77489

The Prez Says

Just to let everyone know I have been out on a family emergency as well as hurricane duty for the last two months and have not really had the time to put toward the club and its functions. However, all of that is now behind me and I will be getting back into club functions and events.

So, I hope to see everyone at the Ice Cream Social on Thursday evening. Also make sure you come out to the September meeting on repeater jammers. Make sure you come out to the Baytown Hamfest on the 17th.

73,
N5VCX



Ham Radio Emergency Communications Guide

By Ham Radio Prep



One of the reasons that amateur radio exists at all is to provide emergency communications. Part §97.1, the very first section of the rules and regulations that govern amateur radio states that one of the bases of amateur radio is, “Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.”

Amateur radio operators take this responsibility very seriously. Each year, many amateur radio operators step up to assist a number of “served agencies” with public service and emergency communications. This includes local events, such as helping out your town’s CERT team search for a missing person; statewide events, such as providing communications during a wildfire; and international events, such as helping international aid groups coordinate their efforts after a hurricane or tsunami.

A Technician Class license and a willingness to serve is all that’s required to get started in public service and emergency communications. Once you obtain your amateur radio license, the next step is to join a CERT team or a local amateur radio emergency communications organization, such as a local amateur radio club, the local chapter of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), or the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES). They will be able to advise you on what equipment to purchase and what training is required and available to become a valuable emergency communicator.

Next month we will cover the following:

1. Why is amateur radio useful in an emergency situation?
2. Amateur radio’s response to Hurricane Maria
3. Which amateur radio frequencies are used in emergencies?
4. Which amateur radio license do I need for public service and emergency communications?
5. Amateur Radio Emergency Organizations

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 few months. Similarly, the "Eating Schedule" may be published every few 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.

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 – Saturday August 3, 2024, 5 PM, Zoom

BVARC General Meeting – Thursday August 8, 2024, Community Volunteer Fire Department, 16005 Bellaire Blvd, Houston 77083



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