



BVARC BEACON

Newsletter of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY



VOLUME 49 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2025

General Membership Meeting February 13th at 7:30 PM

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

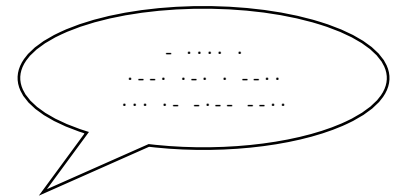
ARES and Emergency Communications

The February 13th BVARC general meeting will have Lee Glassman, WA5LEE, will do a presentation on Amateur Radio Emergency Services and Emergency Ham Radio Communications. Lee is involved with emergency communications in the Houston area and has an extensive background on operations and deployment. With hurricane season just around the corner, now is the time to get prepared for when the lights go out! So, make sure you make it to the February general meeting.



The Prez Says

Our January club road trip to the Senior Road FM broadcast tower was a great success. The tour was organized by Bill Cordell, W5VOM and Bob Stroupe, W5KK. Bill and Bob provided the club members with an insight into the commercial broadcast world, which many of us have never seen. More information on the tour is later in the Beacon. I want to thank them for organizing the tour.



January 25 and 26th Winter Field Day was held at Duhacsek Park in Sugar Land. It was a great success with approximately 35 attendees over the weekend. We'll have more information on the event in a future newsletter. I want to thank Richard, KG5YCU, for organizing the event and working hard over the weekend to make it a success.

Our February meeting will be a presentation on Emergency Communications and ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service). Lee Glassman, WA5LEE, will be bringing his expertise from many years in the fire service and ARES in New England. Lee's experience covers a wide range that can provide support for many situations and emergencies. Make sure you come out to the February meeting for Lee's Presentation.

Do not forget the **Greater Houston HamFest coming up on March 7th and 8th, 2025**. Volunteers are still needed to work the event. If you would like help, please contact me by e-mail or phone. As in the past, it will be held at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in Rosenberg. Check houstonhamfest.org for more information.

And from our neighbors east, there will be the Orange Hamfest:

Orange Hamfest 2025

Our 50th year! Hosted by:

Orange ARC, Jefferson County ARC and Beaumont ARC

The Orange Hamfest is an ARRL sanctioned event.

WHEN: Saturday, February 21st - 22nd, 2025 - A Two-Day Event!

WHERE: Orange County Convention & Expo Center @ 11475 FM 1442

Orange, Texas 77632

(Coordinates: 30 07.28N & 093 52.92W or 30.1244, -93.8922)

See you at the Greater Houston HamFest on the 7th and 8th!

Hamfest TIME: Feb. 21st - 1PM to 6:30PM and Feb. 22nd - 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

73, N5VCX

The Greater Houston HamFest Presents The ARRL Texas State Convention



Tickets:

On-line - \$10
At the Door - \$15
Children 12 and under
Scouts, Military,
& First Responders
In Uniform - FREE
Tables - \$25
Tailgate - \$5

When

Friday, March 7, 2025
12 PM to 6 PM
Saturday, March 8, 2025
8AM to 3PM

*Door Prizes Every half hour
starting at 9:00 am!!*

Where:

Fort Bend County Fairgrounds
4310 TX- 36 S, Rosenberg, TX 77471
29°31'12" N 95°48'38" W

Sponsors/Vendors

- * Ham Radio Outlet
- * The SignMan of Baton Rouge
- * ABR Industries
- * EPO

Raffle Prizes

Single Ticket - \$5
Five Tickets - \$20

Grand Prize Yaesu FTDX-10

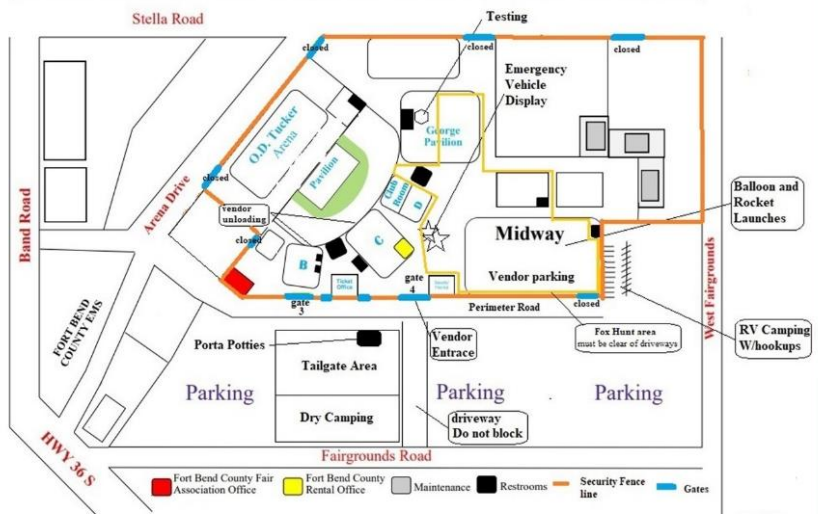
Also
FTM-500DR FT5DR
FT70DR

Guest Speaker

John Stratton, N5US

ARRL West Gulf Division Director

Radio Programming Classes
Testing & Balloon Launches
Overnight camping available
Free Shuttles to your car



Contact:

Chairman: Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
713-826-6917



[FB.com/groups/HoustonHamfest](https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoustonHamfest)

[Twitter.com/HoustonHamfest](https://twitter.com/HoustonHamfest)

www.HoustonHamfest.org www.HoustonHamfest.org

BVARC January Road Trip – A Great Success!

The January BVARC general meeting road trip tour of a 2000-foot tower in Missouri City was a great success. Attended by over thirty hams, they were able to see the inner workings of the radio stations that broadcast from that location.

The 2049-foot (above sea level) tower is owned and managed by the Senior Road Tower Group, the tower, home to nine of Houston's FM broadcast stations, became operational in 1983. The original tower collapsed in 1982 during construction which five tower workers were killed. The tower was home for TV channel 20 from 1982 to 1999 as well.

People attending saw several of the FM transmitters as well as the heart of the operation – the transmitter combiner room. The combiner room, as the name says, combines the RF output from the nine FM stations into one field line which then goes up the tower to the wide-band FM antenna. The transmitter's output ranges from 20 to 40 kilowatts and has a coverage area of 75-mile radius around the tower location.

This tour was done with the help of Bill Cordell, W5VOM and Bob Stroupe, W5KK. I want to thank both for their time and effort arranging the tour.

And as they say, a picture is worth a thousand words, here are about 9,000 words!





BVARC Beacon Print Edition Ending

To get the printed version of the newsletter sent out every month requires a production team. The team must fold, seal, stamp and label the newsletter so it can be mailed. This process takes anywhere from 8 to 10 hours to do 300 newsletters. Over the years many BVARC members (and a number of non-BVARC members) have volunteered their time to put the newsletter together and mail it. I want to thank all of them for their hard work putting the newsletter together over the years.

After searching for a team to continue assembling the printed version of the Beacon, the printed version will be discontinued after the March edition. This will bring the 47-year history of the BVARC printed newsletter to an end. **The BVARC Beacon will continue in on-line format only.**

February 2025 – Amateur Radio Events Calendar

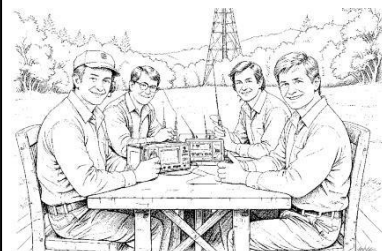
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
P: Public Service Net 8 PM Mondays R: Rag Chew, 3910 kHz, 7 PM Wednesdays			S: Stir Crazy Net Noon Monday-Friday T: 10-10 Int'l Local SHOT Net, 8 PM Tuesdays			1
2	3 PS	4 QST	5 RS	6 S	7 S	8 VE Testing 10:30 AM Bayland Park
9 BVARC Board Mtg 5 PM Zoom	10 PS	11 QST	12 RS	13 S	14 S	15
16	17 PS	18 QST	19 RS	20 S	21 S Orange Hamfest 2025	22 S Orange Hamfest 2025
23	24 PS	25 QST	26 RS	27 S	28 S	

Greater Houston HamFest is March 7-8, 2025, at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 4310 TX-36 S, Rosenberg, TX 77471.

Belton HamEXPO! 2025 is April 5, 2025, at the Bell County Expo Center, 301 W Loop 121, Belton, TX 76513.

Houston POTA 2025 Schedule

1/11 - Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge
 3/22 - Sheldon Lake State Park, 14140 Garrett Rd, Houston, TX 77044
 5/3 - Brazos Bend State Park, 21901 FM 762, Needville, TX 77461
 7/19 - Galveston Island State Park, 14901 FM 3005, Galveston, TX 77554
 9/27 - Stephen F. Austin State Park, Park Road 38, San Felipe, TX 77473
 11/15 - Lake Livingston State Park, 300 Park Road 65, Livingston, TX 77351



Upcoming Hamfests

2/21-22/2025 Orange (Texas) Hamfest 2025, Orange, TX,
https://www.qsl.net/w5nd/index_files/HAMFEST%20INFO/hamfest%20info.htm.

3/7-8/2025 Greater Houston HamFest, Rosenberg, TX,
<https://www.houstonhamfest.org>

4/5/2025 Belton HamEXPO! 2025, Belton, TX 76513

Ham Exam Question - Digital Logic

How many flip-flops are required to divide a signal frequency by 4?

A. 1 B. 2 C. 4 D. 8

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Minutes

January 5th, 2025 @ 5:00pm via Video Conference

Board Members

President – Mike Hardwick – N5VCK	Vice President – Kori Rahman – WX5KR
Treasurer – Dave Ely – N5EKW	1 Year At-Large – Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ
2 Year At-Large – Terry Leatherland – K5PGF	2 Year At-Large – Kirc Breden – N5XJB
Secretary – Jeff Greer – W5JEF	

Board of Directors Meeting

- ❖ Establish Quorum – Established
- ❖ Call Meeting to Order – 5:06 p.m.
- ❖ Opening Statement(s) – Thanks for joining
 - Welcome new members; thanks for serving!
- ❖ Emergency Business
 - Club liability insurance up for renewal (exp 2/5); they have wrong address. To be fixed this week.
- ❖ Agenda Review – Approved
- ❖ Treasurer’s Report – Approved
 - November report was tabled last meeting pending review
- ❖ Secretary’s Report – Reported
- ❖ Old Business
 - Greater Houston HamFest
 - Next Houston POTA – Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge wknd of 1/11.
 - Bayland/Eldridge Park – Mike to work with Eldridge for yearlong reservation; application Winter Field Day submitted. Bayland reservations have been available (45 days out).
 - Houston Christian Univ Radio Club Alliance – Terry to meet with them next week after school resumes. Possibility of holding meetings there.
- ❖ Programs
 - January – Field trip to Senior Road Communications Tower. Donuts and sub sandwiches. \$150 for food approved.
 - February – Emergency Communications with WA5LEE
- ❖ Committees
 - Newsletter – BVARC is looking for a team to assemble the newsletter; if no one volunteers, printed copies will end after March 2025. 8-10 man hours per month. So far, nobody has volunteered. If no one is found, it will end a 47-year streak of BVARC printed newsletters.
 - Historical Archives
 - By-Laws
 - Finance
 - Events and Membership
 - Food Team – Stepping back a bit this year; will still do major events.
 - Club Website
 - Parks on the Air
 - Elmer/ SME
 - Museum Ships Wknd
 - Field Day

- Winter Field Day – Kori and Richard; Jan 25-26.
- Greater Houston HamFest
- GHHF Website
- Banquet
- ❖ New Business
 - May roll “Awards Banquet” into Ice Cream Social.
 - Public BVARC business documents repository established; needs to be used. Link to be added to website.
 - Potential Cybertruck exhibit at GHHF.
- ❖ Next Meetings – Pursuant to Article V Section G #1 of the Club By-Laws
 - Sunday, February 9th, 5:00 p.m. via Zoom
- ❖ Closing Statement(s) – Thanks for coming!
- ❖ Meeting Adjournment – 6:03 p.m.

Recorded by Jeff Greer, W5JEF

The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity. — Dorothy Parker

Waves & Coffee – Antenna Phased Arrays

What are these all about and should we care about them?

By Stephen W2WF

Now that we’ve studied the physics of the infinitesimal dipole, the small dipole, the finite dipole, and the halfwave antennas, we’ll ask the logical follow-up question: what happens if we put a lot of these antennas in a line? Will that sharpen the main lobe of the radiation pattern? What if we offset the outgoing signal by a “delay” at the feedpoint – would that tilt our beam to one side? If we change the delay, or phase, and sweep it back and forth, will that result in a cyclical sweep of the beam, sort of like a searchlight?

If this starts sounding like radar, well that’s where you’re right. The physics that we’ll study here is very applicable to radar systems. An example of this are the flat panels on the main turret of an Arleigh Burke destroyer. The physics is one and the same!

But wait, we’re getting ahead of ourselves. First, let’s define some terms. The arrangement of multiple antennas in a line, or some other pattern, is called an “antenna array”; furthermore, if we then feed each antenna with an offset phase signal relative to each other we end up with “antenna phased arrays”. If you want to find out more about this fascinating topic, the full article is at this link:

<https://bvarc.org/home/tech-downloads/>



BVARC Rag Chew Net

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

12/18/24, K5LKJ (NCS), K5RBC (Lake Jackson), K5LJ, N5BAA, W5ICR, KI5HOC, AA5OA (Pearcy, AR), KE5QY, WB4KTK (Austin), WW5PA (Rosenberg), K5BOD (Spiro, OK). (11 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 170, SN = 93, A = 29, K = 3 /
Band Rpt: FAIR

01/01/25, K5LKJ (NCS), K5LJ, K5RBC (Lake Jackson), W5ICR, KI5HOC, KJ5CEU (Cameron), KA5LPH, W5KK, K5JPP. (9 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 219, SN = 149, A = 85, K = 6 /
Band Rpt: FAIR

01/08/25, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, K5LJ, W5RH, W5ICR, KI5HOC, AA5OA (Pearcy, AR). (7 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 168, SN = 113, A = 12, K = 2 /
Band Rpt: GOOD

01/15/25, K5LKJ (NCS), WW5PA (Rosenberg), K5RBC (Lake Jackson), K5LJ, KI5HOC, W5ICR, AA5OA (Pearcy, AR), WN5A. (7 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 166, SN = 102, A = 12, 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 your experiences. Come join in the conversation each Wednesday evening.

Regards. John K5LKJ

BVARC EATS

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

Advertising in the BVARC BEACON

Business card sized ads are \$10 per month or six months for \$50.

Half page ads are \$25 per month, \$125 for six months, or \$250 per year.

Full page ads are \$50 per month, \$250 for six months, or \$500 for a year.

CW Training Classes

Over the last few months, there have been several club members talking about learning CW. Even though it is no longer required for an Amateur Radio license, many hams have an interest in learning it. So.....

I asked John Whiteman, K5LKJ, to do an informal poll on the Stir-Crazy Net to see how many people would be interested in learning CW. There were several people that expressed interest in learning CW, enough that I feel a CW class would be something the club should start up.

Before the class starts though, I want to check with the rest of the club and see if the interest is there with the rest of the membership. If you are interested in learning CW and would like to attend classes, please drop me an e-mail at n5vcx@att.net and let me know. If there is enough interest, a class can be organized and started around the first of the year.

So let me know if you would like to dive into the world of Morse Code! 73, N5VCX

Ham Exam Answer: B. 2. The first flip-flop divides by 2, and the second one divides that signal by 2 again.

2024 Club Officers

President (2024-2025)

Michael Hardwick N5VCX n5vcx@att.net

Vice President (2025-2026)

Kori Rahman WX5KR kori113@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary (2025-2026)

Jeff Greer W5JEF greerjw@hotmail.com

Treasurer (2025-2026)

David Ely N5EKW davidely@prodigy.net

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

Terry Leatherland K5PGF k5pgf@yahoo.com

2 Year At-Large Board Member B (2025-2026)

Kirc Breden N5XJB n5xjb@yahoo.com

1 Year At Large (2025)

Robert Polinski KD5YVQ kd5yvq@arrl.net

JANUARY 2025 VE - FCC TESTING SESSIONS RESULTS

For the January 4th test session, at Bayland Park - we had 7 candidates and conducted 15 tests

New Licensee:

Jachimiec, C (Technician) KJ5JPE
Murant, S (Technician) KJ5JOE
Nuche, J (Technician) KJ5JPJ
Stowell, W (Technician) KJ5JNW
Ullrich, J (Technician) KJ5JOK
Zimmermann, M (**Extra !**) AI5UW

Upgraded:

Shaw, D (General) KJ5HMY

VEs in attendance – K5GOL, WM5N, K5LJ, KG4NDS and W5ICR – **THANKS!**

Congratulations to All!

The next BVARC test session will be **Saturday, February 8th** at 10:30am. We'll also offer testing at the **Greater Houston Hamfest** on Friday March 7th and Saturday March 8th.

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).

Net Control Operators Needed - Please!

With 350 members, Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club is the largest club in Houston and the second largest in Texas. A club of this size needs the support of its members to help with various functions to keep the club functioning. There are many positions that a member can do to help with the club from serving on the board of directors to coordinating events to helping with the Greater Houston HamFest. However, one of the easiest ways to help the club is to serve as NET control on the club's different NETS. If you are interested on helping and being a NET control, please let me know. There are many openings on the Monday

night NET, and the Stir-Crazy NET and I even bet John, K5LKJ would let you take a shot at the Rag Chew NET.

If you would like to be NET control, let me know so we can put you in the driver's seat. There are many different time slots to choose from so throw your name in the hat to help now.

So set some time aside to help the club and support amateur radio. You can contact me at n5vcx@att.net or call me at 713-826-6917.

73, N5VCX

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.

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

VOLUME 49 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2025

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


FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Board of Directors Meeting – 5 PM Sunday, February 9, 2025, via Zoom

General Membership Meeting – 7:30 PM Thursday, February 13, 2025, 16005 Bellaire Blvd, Houston TX 77083

Greater Houston HamFest – March 7-8, 2025, Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 4310 TX-36 S, Rosenberg TX 77471



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