



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2002

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 2

## FIELD DAY LOCATION CHOSEN

After a 5 to 4 vote, the 2002 BVARC Field day location was picked to be at the #1 Pavilion in George Bush Park, on South Barker Cypress and Westheimer Parkway, off of State Highway 6. This new location will allow BVARC to present field day activities to the general public in a more open area as well as easier access. George Bush Park has many activities from soccer fields to remote control airplanes to a shooting center. The park location has many restaurants located nearby on Hwy 6.

The pavilion that we will be using has 17 tables in it that could seat about 138 people. There are 3 barbecue pits outside the pavilion area that are available for us to use. There is water at the pavilion as well as three electrical outlets. They even supply us with a pair of volleyball poles (I don't think they will be used to play volleyball. I bet they will be used for a 20-meter dipole!).

So start getting your equipment ready for field day. The June BVARC general meeting will be a "get ready for field day" meeting, allowing everyone to participate in some field day activity even if they cannot make it out to the field day location.

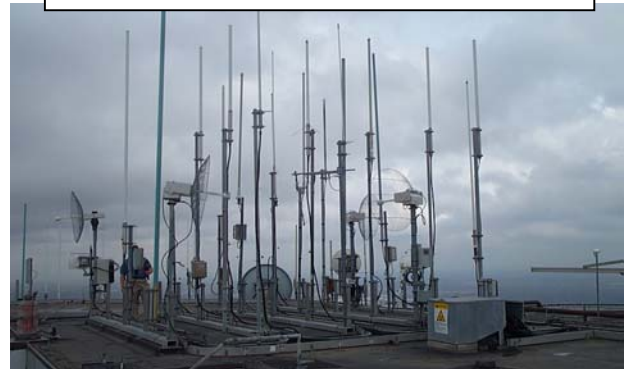
If you would like to help with Field Day, let me know at the general meeting or let me know by e-mail. Let me know any ideas you have to help improve field day and make it a better field day. We still need have a few more people to help with setting everything up on Saturday morning. After last's year high score, we should keep pushing and see what we really can do.

73's  
NOJAA

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Check the renewal date on the mailing label and make sure that your membership is up to date. We will be working on the database and purging all non-members. Send in your dues today so you won't miss out on the newsletter. Lifetime memberships are also available.

Can you guess where this is? Answer on page 4.



## From the Pres:

There were a lot of good comments on how the newsletter looked. Hopefully the evolving newsletter will just keep getting better and better. Let us know any ideas that you have about the newsletter and how to make it better.

A little bit of the past was brought back at the last meeting when Kevin, KD5O, brought his HF equipment into the meeting. When I first moved to Houston a number of years ago, I went to a few Houston Amateur Radio Club meetings. At those meetings there were always a radio or two being operated in the background. It really helped new hams out to have equipment set-up and operating. It attracted the new operators like a moth to a candle. The equipment always had a crowd around it, especially when the operator was working a new JA or a VK.

Kevin brought back the way amateur radio was. Clubs used to have a permanent meeting area and they were able to set equipment up so they could operate it any time they wanted to. The club was open just about every day of the week and sometimes even on holidays. The club used to be a meeting area for all members, which were basically a really big family!

I hope we have more members bringing equipment to operate at the club on meeting nights. It really helps attract new people as well as keeping the older members active.

73's  
N5VCX

## SILENT KEY

Bill Moody, K5VKK, passed away on December 26, 2001 from complications involving cancer. Born February 22, 1917, he has been a long time ham and an active member of BVARC. All that knew him will miss him.

## **2002 Club Officers:**

President:  
Mike Hardwick, N5VCX  
n5vcx@worldnet.att.net

Vice President:  
Robert Moore, KK5UO  
kk5uo@hal-pc.org

Treasurer:  
Rex Ritz, KC5EEU  
icrex@yahoo.com

Corresponding Secretary:  
Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM  
k5cam@arrl.net

Recording Secretary:  
Bill Allen, KC5IUU  
william\_allen@csicontrols.com

One-Year Board Member:  
John Gilmore, AC5TL  
johnnygilmore\_1999@yahoo.com

Two-Year Board Member:  
Paul Gray, N0JAA  
n0jaa@aol.com

Three-Year Board Member:  
Ross Lawler, W5HFF  
w5hff@juno.com

Past President:  
Kevin Foto, KD5O  
foto@texas.net

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## **Club Happenings:**

### **General Meeting**

Second Thursday each month at the  
Sugar Land Community Center  
226 Matlage Way  
Sugar Land, Texas

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

First Thursday of each month at the  
Sugar Land Community Center

### **Volunteer Examiner Program**

BVARC administers Amateur License  
Exams on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.  
Contact John Moore, KK5NU

### **Eating Schedule**

Third Friday Dinner at 6:30.  
Location announced in the calendar.

Saturday morning breakfasts –  
7:30 AM Viking Den,  
90A in Stafford

## **Board of Directors Meeting - February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2002**

President Mike Hardwick called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. with a quorum.

In attendance were: President Mike Hardwick, N5VCX; Past President Kevin Foto, KD5O; Vice President Robert Moore, KK5UO; Corresponding Secretary, Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; Past Vice President Claude Sessions, K5HFY; Treasurer Rex Ritz, KC5EEU; 3 Year Director Ross Lawler, W5HFF; Charles Frost, K5LBU; Allen Brier - N5XZ, Connie Brier -KC5VHH

Recording Secretary Bill Allen, KC5IUU, 2 Year Director - Paul Gray, NOJAA: were out due to personal reasons. 1 Year Director - Johnny Gilmore, AC5TL was out to personal reasons.

Corresponding Secretary Report by Cameron Mitchell - K5CAM  
As of 2-1 the club had 121 members with 57 in ARRL, 8 life members and 8 family members.

Treasurer Reports were submitted by Rex Ritz, KC5EEU and Rex completed the account signature card transfer. Treasurer reports and issues discussed.

Mike asked about a receipt for the awards and Rex said that none are in. More Field Day discussion with Rex, Robert, Frosty, Kevin, and Allen B. Connie B suggested Brazos State Park. Discussion on it, tabled until Paul is back.

Club programs discussed for the year and field trip is approved to Frost's school. Having Rick and Rex doing a duo presentation

Cameron to Mike, make sure that you get a newsletter to Andy McCalister. Claude change the club to allow for swap meets during the week during the general meeting.

Claude and Rex reminded us that the Amateur Extra test will be harder after July 21<sup>st</sup> due to a change in the question pool.

More discussion on program schedule and well as updated records on membership. Check Rick Hillers membership and general meeting in May.

Mike said that Field day should be decided on at the next meeting out the three choices: Ft. Bend Fire Training Park, Katy Park, and George Bush Park. The June meeting should be a "get ready meeting" for field day. Rex said that Ham radio should be projected and presented to the General Public. Rex suggested and the board agreed on bringing in pizza and having the club fund it.

Mike brought up having name badges for the members again with the cost funded by dues. Mike said that he would get back with a cost estimate. A motion was made by Robert and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kevin to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Brier, KC5VHH.

I want to thank Connie Brier for coping the minutes with no notice at all. She did an excellent job and we hope this did not scare her off from coming to more meetings.

The January minutes will be published next month. Due to a loss in communications, the minutes were not ready to be published so we moved to February.

The BVARC Board of Directors would like to thank **Lockard & White Telecommunications Engineers** for the production of the newsletter. Thanks to their generosity, portions of the newsletter will now be in color.

## **BVARC PUBLIC SERVICE NET**

**Doug Woodruff, KC5VYZ - Coordinator**

The BVARC Public Service Net meets every Monday night on 145.47 (123 PL) at 9:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Check-ins and that night's net control:

12/17 - 16 - Cam, K5CAM  
12/31 - 8 - Cam, K5CAM  
1/7 - 27 - Mike N5VCX  
1/14 - 22 - Kevin, KD5O  
1/21 - 28 - Jack, WN5A  
1/28 - 25 - Doug, KC5VYZ  
2/4 - 19 - Cam, K5CAM  
2/11 - 33 - Kevin, KD5O  
2/18 - 21 - Joe, K5JWM  
2/25 - 22 - Doug, KC5VYZ

## **THE BVARC RAG CHEW NET**

**January 2002 by Sam Wilson, N5CPA**

3962.5 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00PM  
**PLEASE NOTE FREQUENCY CHANGE  
FROM 3960 KHz**

Just WHAT IS the Rag Chew Net? Well it's a chance for you to get on the low bands and hang out with other B-VARC members, as well as hams from around the south central US! WHAT?? Don't have voice privileges? Got a short-wave receiver? Dial in and listen, then check in using the telephone number announced at the beginning of each net.

**1/02/02--N5CPA, K5CEK, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KE5SR, K5LJ, K0ZGC. (7)**

**1/09/02--N5CPA, K5CEK, K5LJ, K5VRJ, AB5BA, W5GHK, KE5SR, WC5S, KK5UO. (9)**

**1/16/02--N5CPA, K5CEK, K5JWM, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KB5F.(6)**

**1/23/02--N5CPA, K5CEK, N5VXU, K5LJ, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KE5SR, W5GHK, WB5SRN, KD5O, K5JWM. (11)**

**1/30/02--N5CPA, KE5SR, K5JWM, K5LJ, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KD5O, WC5S. (8)**

## **SCANNER JACK'S CORNER**

Here are the frequencies for Ft. Fend Co. T.R.S.

868.8250	868.5375
868.2625	867.7625
867.2375	866.7625
866.3125	

**SCANNER JACK**

Jack Roberts, KB5TMY

## **AMATEUR RADIO TESTING**

**BVARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION**

for February 12, 2002

**By John Moore, KK5NU**

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, February 12, 2002 at Houston Community College's Scarcella Technology Campus in Stafford.

### **MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:**

Carl Albrecht, AA5JW  
Larry Jacobson, K5LJ  
John Moore, KK5NU  
Mark Winslett, KM5WR

Eight examination elements were administered during the course of the evening to six applicants. One unlicensed candidate received a new Technician license; two Technicians upgraded to General; a third passed Element 3; and a General upgraded to Extra Class with the total number of elements passed being 6. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 75%.

Congratulations to all the following who upgraded and/or passed exams:

Timothy C. Callaway	-	-	Technician
Benjamin C. Fischer	-	KG6IDF	- General
Dennis A. Ignatenko	-	KD5KQN	- Extra
Walter T. Jackson	-	KD5QKA	- Element 3
Edwin H. Maling	-	K7MLR	- General

Many thanks to all the Team Members and Assistants who volunteer their valuable time and effort each month.

All of us at B-VARC again thank everyone at HCC Scarcella Technology Center for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

..... 73 .....

John Moore - KK5NU

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## **AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE WEBSITE REDESIGNED**

### *New design provides faster access to licensing and filing information*

As part of the continuing effort to enhance web-based services for the public, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau announces the creation of a new layout for the Amateur Radio Service website at <http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur>. The retooled structure breaks out topics more clearly, emphasizes the most frequently sought information, and uses distinct sectioning and summaries to help users scan the site more quickly. Among the information most requested by amateur radio operators is licensing policies and procedures and instructions on how to perform common filing tasks. These topics now reside in two new sections prominent on the home page. Under "Licensing", users will now find direct links to information on

- \_ The Licensing Process
- \_ Exams and Exam Fees
- \_ Volunteer Examiners (VEs)
- \_ Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs)

Under "Common Filing Tasks", users can link to specific help on just the single tasks they may need to perform, including

- \_ Changing an Address
- \_ Checking an Application Status
- \_ Obtaining a Vanity Call Sign
- \_ Renewing a License
- \_ Replacing a License

The new design clusters Public Notices, News Releases, and other officially released documents affecting amateur radio operators on the right side of the page. On the left side of the page, the new navigation reflects restructured and easier-to-read information on the Amateur Radio Service, the Sequential Call Sign System, Vanity Call Signs, and Communications Policies. The new design is a part of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's continuing effort to meet the needs of the Amateur Radio Service operators as identified in focus groups, letters, phone calls, and emails. Licensees who have bookmarked the Amateur Radio Service website should note that the URL has changed to <http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur>. The site launched on Wednesday, February 20, 2002. **For questions or comments concerning the website, contact Bobby Brown at (202) 418-0539 (e-mail: [bbrown@fcc.gov](mailto:bbrown@fcc.gov)) Or Jennifer Bush at (202) 418-0586 (e-mail: [jbush@fcc.gov](mailto:jbush@fcc.gov)).**

For information concerning the Amateur Radio Services, call William T. Cross at (202) 418-0680 (email: [bcross@fcc.gov](mailto:bcross@fcc.gov)).

(From FCC site)

<b>E P O</b>	<b>ELECTRONIC PARTS OUTLET</b>
	ELECTRONICS / COMPUTERS & MORE
	<b>THE ELECTRONIC SOURCE</b>
	3753 FONDREN HOUSTON, TEXAS 77063 713 784-0140 713 784-9740 fax STORE MANAGER KEN TURNER
	17776 TOMBALL PKWY HOUSTON, TEXAS 77064 281 807-9600 281 774-0830 fax STORE MANAGER RICK ZAMARRIPA
	SHIP TO WAREHOUSE: 9101 LIPAN HOUSTON, TX 77063 713 787-0599 713 268-1044 fax

## **BREAKFAST LOCATION CHANGE**

(For the folk's that missed it last month, here it is again. If you get a chance, come on out and join the breakfast crowd)

Lou, W5IHY, can't make it to breakfast with us any more, and Charley, KG5KV, has gone to Egypt on a job for an extended period of time. Dick, KB5WZI, and I are the only regulars still eating at the New York Coffee Shop on Saturday mornings. So we have decided to join the group at the Viking Den in Stafford for future Saturday breakfasts.

Please pass it on to everyone about the change.

Thanks,  
Sam Wilson, N5CPA

## **ANSWER TO FRONT PAGE QUIZ**

This is a part of the antenna area on the JPMorgan Chase Tower in downtown Houston. This is the receive area with over 30 antennas on it. The entire roof has over 120 antennas.

## **AMATEUR EXTRA STUDY CLASS**

Ross, W5HFF our club Elmer and Robert, KK5UO, are gearing up for a Extra study class to start sometime in March. This is to get as many of club members upgraded before the question pool changes in July. Contact either one of them for the exact date and time.

## **GENERAL MEETING PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

Here is a tentative program schedule for the general meetings. Programs can change due to unforeseen circumstances or if someone is put in jail.

March - Public Service Events

April - Home brew microphones  
May - BVARC first field trip – Ollie Middle School  
June - Field Day prep, pizza will be served  
July - Working Satellites  
August - Ice Cream Social  
September - HF Antennas or Loading a bed frame  
October - QRP  
November – Elections and Chili Supper  
December - Home Brew night

Robert  
KK5UO

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### **PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS**

Over the next few months, there area going to be a number of Public Service events and as well as related items. So get your radio ready for the upcoming events.

The BlueBonnet Bike ride, March 17<sup>th</sup>, is one that you can get your feet wet if you have not ever worked a public service event. This bike ride had about 1800 to 2000 riders on it and amateur radio helps make it a very successful event. This Sunday event starts around 6:30 a.m. and finishes around 2 or 3 p.m.

Take a look at the calendar and pick an event out. Come on out and help with a number of excellent events that help out others as well as amateur radio.

Remember amateur radio can help others and working public service events keeps you prepared to do that.

Come on out and put your radio and license to a very good use.

Mike  
N5VCX

### **MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**MS150 VOLUNTEER TRAINING-** Come on out and work with the other volunteers that help put together one of the largest back ride in the US. You can get or update your CPR certification at this meeting as well. Class will be held at the MS office on North Stadium Drive just north of the Astrodome.

### **MARCH 17<sup>th</sup>**

**BLUEBONNET BIKE RIDE** – Starts at 6:30 a.m. at the Factory Outlet Mall in Hempstead. A great public service event to learn how to work them. Minimum requirements on equipment – VHF radio with at least 25 watts of power and some type of gain antenna. The tress and hills are not very friendly to RG energy.

### **APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>**

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS** – This is one of the most rewarding events to work. Come on out and help with a very good cause. This is held in Rosenberg at a Lamar high school.

### **APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>**

**TOUR de CYPRESS BIKE RIDE** – This ride is a little bigger than the Bluebonnet. The ride starts near Fry road and FM529. Same equipment requirements on this ride due to the amount of ground it covers. Come on out and help with a great ride.

### **APRIL 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>**

#### **MS150 BIKE TOUR**

**HOUSTON TO AUSTIN** – This is the premier public service event for Houston. Come on out help and be part of an event that raised over \$5 million dollars last year to help fight Multiple Sclerosis. Equipment requirements are 25 watts with a gain antenna. If you work both days, sleeping areas are available. Food is also available on the ride. Many positions to work from the command post in Houston to break points along the route to medical communications.

### **APRIL 28<sup>th</sup>**

#### **MARCH OF DIMES WALK AMERICA** –

There are several walks around the greater Houston area. Due to low amateur turnout, the University of Houston will not need amateurs this year, they went to commercial radio. There are still four other areas needed operators. North Houston has the Greenspoint area, the Southeast Houston area will have one at Ellington Field, the Woodlands walk will start at the Cynthia Woods Pavilion and for the first year Sugar Land will have one starting at the First Colony Mall. Normally the walk last only a few hours and is a very easy event to work. Most of the courses are small enough to use a hand held radio.

There are several coordinators for these events. Give me a call and I will get you in contact with the coordinators.

Thanks,

Mike  
N5VCX

Do you have anything for the BVARC Calendar? Let us know and we will post it.

### BVARC Calendar - March 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den
3	4 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	5	6 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	7 <b>BOD Meeting 7:30 pm</b>	8	9 Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den
10	11 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	12 <b>VE Session 6:30 pm</b>	13 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	14 <b>Public Service Events Club Meeting 7:30 pm</b>	15 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday Dinner**	16 Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den
17 <b>Bluebonnet Bike Ride</b>	18 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	19	20 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	21	22	23 Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den
24	25 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	26	27 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	28	29	30 Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den

\*\*The third Friday dinner in March will be at 6:30pm, March 15, 2002, at The Hickory Barn Barbecue, 11534 Wilcrest, 2 blocks north of S W Frwy.

### BVARC Calendar - April 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	2	3 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	4	5	6 <b>Special Olympics</b> Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den
7 <b>Tour de Cypress Bike Ride</b>	8 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	9 <b>VE Session 6:30 pm</b>	10 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz BOD Meeting 7:30 pm	11 <b>Homebrew Microphones Club Meeting 7:30 pm</b>	12	13 Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den
14	15 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	16	17 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	18	19 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday Dinner	20 <b>MS 150 Bike Ride.</b> Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den
21 <b>MS 150 Bike Ride</b>	22 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	23	24 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	25	26	27 Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den
28 <b>March of Dimes</b>	29 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	30				

## 2001 FIELD DAY HIGHLIGHTS



Helping out at the PACE event



Raising one for Field Day



Op Center for Field Day



And this gives me what?



SK: Henry, WB5IIB



Plenty of room for antennae

Do you have something for the newsletter? Articles are always needed for the newsletter. If you would like to put an article in the newsletter but you are not sure just how to do it, give Cameron or John or Claude a call and they will be glad to help.



**Monthly Publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.  
Amateur Radio for Southwest Houston and Fort Bend County**

**Club Call sign - KC5OIG**

**BVARC's Website: <http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc>**

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**Production Team: Claude Sessions, K5HFY, [claudes@juno.com](mailto:claudes@juno.com)  
John Moore, KK5NU, [jwm@hal-pc.org](mailto:jwm@hal-pc.org)**

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC) was, organized in 1978, primarily as an emergency communications group available to assist the communities of Missouri City and Stafford, when required. Since that time, BVARC has grown and expanded its activities to become the most active Amateur radio club in the Southwest Houston and Fort Bend county areas.

Today, BVARC is truly a general interest club with an impressive record of Public Service. The Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) has recognized the clubs commitment to service with the coveted status of Special Service Club. We are proud of our members who represent the some of the finest in Amateur Radio. Membership is not limited to licensed operators, but is open to anyone with an interest in Amateur Radio. Meetings are held generally at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, at the Sugar Land Community Center. Talk-in assistance is available in the 145.470, and 444.550 MHz (PL 123.0) repeaters. Membership dues are \$16 annually.

BVARC conducts A.R.R.L. VEC license exam sessions on the second Tuesday of each month. BVARC also conducts a Public Service Net at 9:00 P. M. each Monday on the 145.470 and 444.55 (MERA) repeaters.

To obtain information about the club, its activities, or about joining BVARC, contact John, K5LKJ, at 281-530-0432. New members and prospective hams should contact the Club's "Elmer", Ross, W5HFF at 281-342-3340 or [w5hff@juno.com](mailto:w5hff@juno.com).

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**VOLUME 25 ISSUE 2**

**February 2002**

**BRAZOS VALLEY  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
P.O. BOX 1630  
MISSOURI CITY TX 77459-1630**

**FIRST CLASS POSTAGE**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Next General Meeting: Thursday, March 14.**