



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

APRIL 2002

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 4

FIRST ROAD TRIP FOR CLUB OLLE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

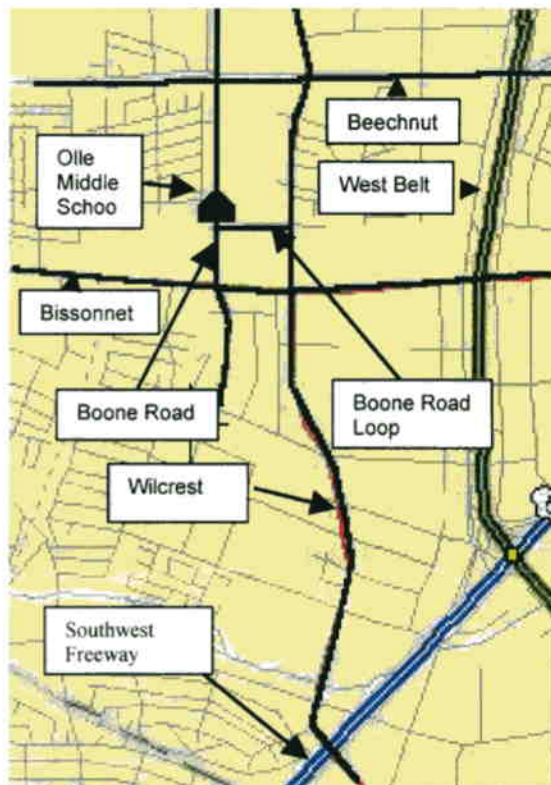
This month's meeting will be at Olle Middle School in Alief (See map at right). Come on out and see the school's station. Talk-in will be the MERA 145.470 repeater. This is the type of project that all of us need to support to help promote amateur radio. Even with cellular phones and the Internet, kids are still interested in amateur radio. If we want the hobby to continue, educating children is the only way.

Mike,
N5VCX



Come one, come all to the May BVARC meeting at my School, Olle Middle School. Come to the back of the building under the antenna between 6 and 10 p.m. to see the station.

**DON'T FORGET FIELD DAY JUNE 22 & 24
AT GEORGE BUSH PARK! CONTACT PAUL,
N0JAA TO VOLUNTEER!**



Olle Middle School Radio Club was started in 1999 which was my first year at Olle. I was looking for something to help encourage students to stay in school and maybe at least complete High school. I knew Ham radio could do the job but the equipment was the problem. I took my 746 every day and installed a mini-quad up on the roof along with a long wire. This worked OK, but wasn't enough. I had only three students that showed interest in amateur radio.

These three 8th graders asked a very good question, "Why when there was not club or station at school?" I knew that was a problem not having something permanent so I kept looking for equipment to set up a permanent station. A QST article had the answer. Just write a grant request, add some luck and receive a complete station. Since writing is not my best thing, both of my daughters, one who is KA2UCA, helped me write the grant.

After seven months, we found out that we did it! Olle Middle School now has a radio to start building a club station. Before I knew it, and with the help of several Brazos Valley members, the antenna, tower and all the extra hardware was installed.

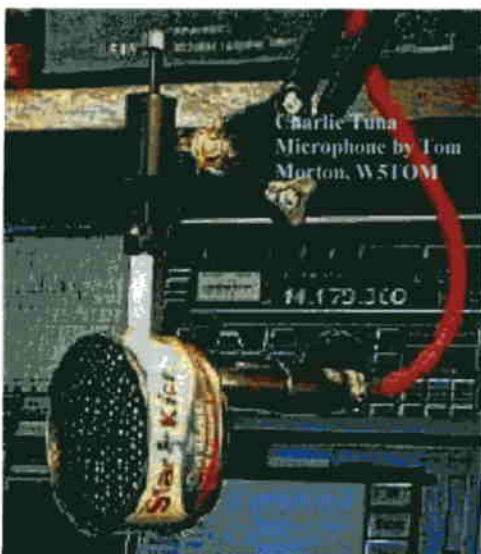
When school started this last August, I had planned to have a small class for ham radio but the class ended up with 32 students! I gave the class my best shot but so many of the kids were uninterested, the class just died a slow death. Three students tried to hang in there but finals and girls knocked them out. Most boys are in sports after school and had no time. I was lost on what to do to get more interest.

Some were still interested in at least listening to the radio. I hope this will keep some interest in amateur radio. I have asked for a class period to try another amateur radio class but so far no reply.

This program needs your support in all areas of amateur radio. This is an open invitation to come by the school whenever you can to see the club station. If you live in Alief ISD, contact the school board and tell them about amateur radio. If you have an old rig that you would like to donate to the school, please contact me.

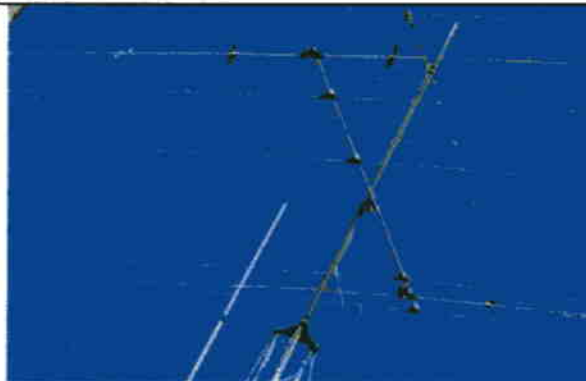
Frosty
K5LBU

A big thanks to Tom Morton, W5TOM, for a wonderful program in April on homemade microphones. Here are couple of his "creations".



**YOU CAN USE THAT TUNA CAN
FOR A MICROPHONE!**

Close-up of the Olle Middle School antenna



MS150 COMMAND POST STAFF SURVIVES



Thanks to the hard work from all of the volunteers on the MS150 Bike Tour. Ten Thousand riders is a lot of work!
Mike, N5VCX

Tom gets some of his best microphone bases from Guess what he is using here.



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, KC5IIU
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

Club Happenings:

General Meeting

Second Thursday each month-
May 9 on a Field Trip to see
Frosty's
Installation at Olle Middle School,
9200 Boone Road (See Map)

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,
Hwy 90A in Stafford

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Board of Directors Meeting - April 4th, 2002

President Mike Hardwick called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. with a quorum.

In attendance were President Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, Past President Kevin Foto, KD5O, Treasurer Rex Ritz, KC5EEU, Corresponding Secretary Cameron Mitchell -K5CAM, 2-Year Director /Field Day Director Paul Gray-N0JAA, 3-Year Director Ross Lawler-W5HFF, Recording Secretary Bill Allen-KD5IIU, Claude Sessions-K5HFY.

Treasurer Report by Rex Ritz, KC5EEU: (The Treasurer's Report is available for members from any of the Board of Directors.)

Club membership dues were discussed. Various club financial concerns were discussed. Discussed the clubs insurance policy expiration date of September 1st 2002. Paul Gray made a motion to pass the report and was seconded by Mike Hardwick. Motion then passed unanimously

Recording Secretary Report by Bill Allen, KD5IIU: The BVARC BOD would like to thank Connie Brier for handling the February minutes. Reviewed the March 2002 BOD minutes. Motion made by Ross Lawler and seconded by Kevin Foto to approve March 2002 with corrections. Motion then carried unanimously.

Corresponding Secretary Report by Cameron Mitchell -K5CAM: Stated we have 132 total members and 13 lifetime members.

Vice President Report by Robert Moore-KK5UO: was not present due to personal reasons. Discussed details of the next club program. Tom Morton -W5TOM, will give the program on Microphones and Audio. Field Day details were discussed.

3-Year Director Ross Lawler-W5HFF: The BVARC Extra class training class was discussed. He noted the classes were being given on Monday nights at St. Paul's Church on Bellaire in the classrooms from 7-9 p.m.

2-Year Director Paul Gray-N0JAA: The field day committee has only 7 members and he is asking for more volunteers. Food and entertainment details committee was discussed. The Treasurer has ordered twenty field day pins. The ARRL has stated that all North and South Americas will be eligible contacts for this year's field day contest

1-Year Director John Gilmore-AC5TL: was not present due to personal reasons.

Past Presidential Report by Kevin Foto-KD5O: Discussed details of the next club program. Tom Morton -W5TOM, will give the program on Microphones and Audio. Field Day details were discussed.

Web Site committee: Online newsletter options were discussed. HAL-PC web links to additional pages were discussed.

Emergency Business: Details on posting a notification on the Sugar Land Community Center of meeting move were discussed. Details on monitoring both 145.470 and 444.55 machines for any one needing directions were discussed. Contacting our guest speaker of the location was discussed.

Old Business: Received and pending receipts from the Banquet awards were discussed.

New Business: The Sugar Land Emergency Operations Center was discussed and is going well. The May general meeting will be a road trip to Ollie Middle School - K5OMS. Book audit turnover to Randy Pollard, AK5G is due this month. Membership drive ideas were discussed. Sending newsletters to past members was discussed. Creating QSL cards for Field Day events were discussed. HCC possibilities and status were discussed. A portable BVARC library display with ARRL series books was discussed Tailgate swap meet rules were discussed. The club's tax exemption changes were discussed. Motion was made to adjourn by Rex Ritz and was seconded by Ross Lawler. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:23pm.

The BVARC Board of Directors would like to thank **Lockard & White Telecommunications Engineers** for the production of the newsletter with portions of it 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:

3/4 - 24 - Cam, K5CAM
3/11 - 28 - Kevin, KD5O
3/18 - 28 - Joe, K5JWM
3/25 - 23 - Doug, KC5VYZ
4/1 - 34 - Jack, WN5A
4/8 - 28 - Doug, KC5VYZ
4/15 - 25 - Joe, K5JWM
4/22 - 27 - Jack, WN5A

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THE BVARC RAG CHEW NET

March 2002 by Sam Wilson, N5CPA

PLEASE NOTE FREQUENCY CHANGE FROM 3960 KHz

3962.5 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00PM

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 BVARC 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.

3/06/02--N5CPA, K5CEK, KE5SR, K5LJ, N5VXU, WC5S, K5VRJ, AB5BA, K5JWM, KD5O. (10)

3/13/02--N5CPA, K5CEK, K5LBU, KK5UO, WD8RZA, KF5HP, N5VXU, W20EZ, K5HFX, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KE5SR, WC5S, K5JWM. (14)

3/20/02--N5CPA, K5CEK, WB5SRN, K5JWM, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KE5SR, K5LJ, W5UFG. (9)

3/27/02--N5CPA, K5CEK, K5VRJ, AB5BA, K5JWM, WC5S, KK5UO, W5SQE, K5HFX. (9)

SCANNER JACK'S CORNER

**Frequencies for FT. BEND CO and HARRIS CO.
SKY WARN NETS.**

Amateur Radio

2m 145.490 FT. Bend County E.O.C.
2m 146.840 Houston E.O.C.

D.P.S.

154.680 Mobile to base - Houston
155.460 Base to mobile - Houston
159.210 Houston repeater
154.695 Mobile to base - Pierce
155.445 Base to mobile - Pierce
155.535 Richmond repeater - Pierce

National Weather Service

162.400 Houston 162.550 Galveston

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AMATEUR RADIO TESTING

**BVARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION
for April 9, 2002**

By John Moore, KK5NU

BVARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, April 9, 2002 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
John Koppenhaver, N0BNA
John Moore, KK5NU

Two examination elements were administered during the course of the evening to two applicants. One Technician

licensee upgraded to General and one General class licensee upgraded to Extra Class with the total number of elements passed being 2. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

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

Cy A. Schaadt - N5VQA - General
Michael B. Wheat - KD5LER - Extra

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

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

..... 73

TIME IS GETTING SHORT!

The last day of June is just around the corner and for those who do not know what that means, a change in the Amateur Extra question pool will happen on that day. If you have been studying the questions to upgrade to Extra, you need to do it soon or you may have to start all over again! Contact John Moore, KK5NU and sign up today to take the upgrade test! There are 6 test sessions a month in the Houston area so by the time you get this newsletter there will be only about ten left. Check the BVARC web site for testing dates and locations.

CHECK OUT NEW FCC WEB SITE

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur/>

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713 784-9740 fax
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KEN TURNER

17778 TOMBALL PKWY
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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

ORDER FIELD DAY T-SHIRT NOW

Orders are being taken for 2002 Field Day t-shirts. The cost of the shirt is \$15.00 per shirt, which includes shipping. If you would like to order one, contact Cameron, K5CAM and place your order. He will be taking orders up to May 17th, when the order is sent to ARRL. Don't wait until the last minute. The number of sizes are limited.

HOUSTON
AMATEUR RADIO
SUPPLY, INC.

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PRESIDENT

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PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

The MS150 Bike Tour was a huge success. Over 10,000 people registered for the ride this year making it the biggest one ever! Over 80 amateurs were used from several areas including Houston, Katy, Bellville, Brenham, La Grange, Bastrop, and Austin. There were approximately 30 hospital transports of riders sustaining serious injuries including two air transports.

Without amateur radio, the event would be very difficult to coordinate. The service the amateur radio community gives to the events helps provide a smooth and safe event. Using amateur radio in public events helps promote the hobby and prepares us for times of emergencies. Take to the time over the next few months and work an event. There are a number of events coming up. Remember, hurricane season is just around the corner. So get your radio ready for the upcoming events.

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

May 18th SHINER BASH bike ride

Houston to Shiner Part of a three route bike ride. Starts at 7 a.m. and is finished by 3 p.m. Staffing only break-points and NET control in Shiner.

July 21st, 2002 Katy Flatlands Bike Ride - Katy

One day loop bike ride starting and finishing in Katy
5:30 am to 4:00 p.m.
30 operators needed

April 12th & 13th, 2003 MS150 BIKE TOUR

Several people had mentioned that they would have volunteered for the MS150 if they had known about it earlier. Well here are the dates! Sign up now. One hundred operators needed for both one day and two day positions starting at 4:30 a.m. Saturday to 11 p.m. Sunday. Food and sleeping accommodations provided.

Houston Command post needing 20 operators for Friday noon to Sunday midnight operation. Operations include VHF, UHF, HF and APRS

If you would like to volunteer, call me at 713-771-4625.

Mike, N5VCX

At the peak of activity, about 400 people were sheltered at Crescent City High School where a triage center had been set up. Also, a group from the Northeast Florida Chapter American Red Cross headquartered in Jacksonville was sent to the scene. This included several Jacksonville ham radio operators and a Red Cross Emergency Response vehicle.

Two hospitals in Jacksonville were staffed by Duval ARES operators to provide status reports to medical volunteers who were ready to head to the site if needed. Their help was not required and the stations were secured at 10 PM Eastern time..

Meantime., the Florida Crown Emergency Net was on the W4IZ Repeater System which was linked to the KF4PXX system in Palatka. It was in session from 5:30 to after 11PM.

There were many hams who volunteered in this emergency. Far to many to list here. And they once again proved that ham radio was willing and able to help when called on.

N4UF, AR Newsline™

AMATEUR RADIO & VOLUNTEERING

A personal opinion

Over the past few weeks, there have been several articles about volunteering for the MS150 and other public service events. The articles range from "all the ambulances were not equipped with onboard radios....." to "one landmark building's new property manager decided that less than one square foot of antenna space was suddenly worth \$450 per month." The articles start out about problems of volunteers for events but then the writers start to lean towards their own agendas. I know that this is how most problems are brought out, but I feel that anyone who wants to really help amateur radio survive needs to keep the main problem in focus.

After coordinating MS150 communications for the last four years, I was extremely upset about this year, not at any one person, other than myself, just upset at timing and life. Most volunteers who work the MS150 also work several other events during the year. I work very hard not to burn them out, but it is really hard to work an event that needs twenty operators when I have only eight. I know that people's lives change constantly, so I have to work with what I am given.

I tried using e-mail mostly this year since I really do not like to call and beg for operators. I always try and give people the position they want or need during the event. I have even split positions among several operators to keep positions covered. I may have to go back to calling since things were very tight this year on operators for operators on the MS150. Staffing events is a juggling act of the nth degree.

I do all of this is for the reason that I feel that amateur radio is for. It is described in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 47, Part 97 titled Amateur Radio Service:

Sec. 97.1 Basis and purpose.

The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

(a) 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.

If anyone notices, there is nothing in Part 97 about working bike rides, fun runs, plastic duck races, or canoe races. The only thing that it says is that amateur radio's fundamental purpose is "recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service....." This can mean many things, and most of us will draw our own conclusions.

However, I feel that bike rides, fun runs and other events do follow that statement very closely. We, as amateur radio operators, are among the public providing a service. During emergencies, we may not really be in the public's eye. We will be set up in a fire stations or a office buildings or even city halls. This may expose us to maybe a few hundred people to what we can do. During public service events, we may talk to several hundred people in just a few hours, not days. The events also help us stay prepared for when emergency communications are needed. Even during events, some operators show up with radios that don't work, who don't know how to enter a PL code, or even change channels, yes this really happened. If we only use our radio for morning and afternoon drive time and never change a channel, how can we be prepared for emergencies. Amateur radio is one of the most unique hobbies in the world because we can supply communications to police, fire, and ambulances.

I feel that the MS150 is no different from a slow-moving evacuation. with all the same problems: medical, food, sanitation, and fuel. You think the Gulf freeway will be much faster that 17mph during a Galveston evacuation?

The articles never quite hit on the main problem with amateur radio. The group from ECHO was close but it was still a little off-base. If the hobby is to survive, educating the public is the only way for it to work. We must get in the schools and colleges. We need to be visible in malls and public gatherings. We need show the public that there is a worldwide group of people who can communicate with each another and provide services that cannot be matched by cell phones or the internet.

To correct an error in one of the articles, one ambulance out of three on the MS150 had a amateur operator in it. The others, as well as the supervisor's vehicle, had cell phones and company radios. During the event, all medical emergencies go through a medical NET control who decides which ambulance is dispatched. If none is available, and this does happen due to the size of the event, local ambulances are used.

All I am trying to say is that if you want amateur radio to survive, do something that promotes the hobby in the biggest way you know. Not just bike rides or fun runs, but helping kids at Olle Middle School, or students at University of Houston. Helping during a disaster drill at the local EOC can also help. The amateur radio hobby needs to continue and it needs support, your support.

Mike Hardwick
N5VCX

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

2002 Membership Application

Check One:

☐ New Membership

☐ Renewal

☐ Roster Update ONLY

Regular membership dues are \$16.00 a year. Lifetime Memberships are \$160.00. Additional family members may join B-VARC for only \$2.00 a year each with no additional copy of the newsletter.

Name: _____ Call: _____

Additional Family Members: _____ Call: _____

Additional Family Members: _____ Call: _____

(Note: If this is a renewal, please indicate only changes in personal information. Thanks.)

Address: _____ Day Phone () _____

_____ Zip+4: _____ Eve Phone () _____

e-mail address: _____

Main area of interests in amateur radio: _____

License Class:
☐ Novice ☐ General
☐ Technician ☐ Advanced
☐ Tech+ ☐ Extra
☐ Former Ham ☐ Not Yet a Ham

ARRL Membership?
☐ Life
☐ Annual
☐ Not a member

I agree to observe the By-Laws of Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club and rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission.

Signature: _____ Call: _____ Date: _____

Remittance:

Regular Membership _____ + Family Membership _____ = \$ _____

BVARC *LIFE MEMBERSHIPS* at \$160/Person _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL = \$ _____

Please make checks payable to BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB and write your call-sign, if any, on your check. Send this form and your check or money order to:

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 1630
Missouri City TX 77459-1630

BVARC Calendar - May 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 HF Net 8:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	2 BOD Meeting 7:30PM	3	4 Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den
5	6 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	7	8 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	9 Club Meeting 7:30 pm at Ollie Middle School.	10	11 Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den
12	13 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	14 VE Session 6:30 pm	15 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	16	17 3 rd Friday Night Dinner	18 Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den Shiner Bash Bike Ride
19	20 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	21	22 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	23	24	25 Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den
26	27 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	28	29 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	30	31	

*6:30PM SHARP at NINFA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT, at 9730 Southwest Frwy.(US59), on the west side, between Bissonnet and Beltway 8.

B-VARC Calendar - June 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den
2	3 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	4	5 HF Net 7:00 pm 3960 +/-3KHz	6 BOD Meeting 7:30 pm	7 Arlington HAM-COM	8 Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den Arlington HAM-COM
9	10 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	11 VE Session 6:30 pm	12 HF Net 7:00 pm 3960 +/-3KHz	13 Club Meeting 7:30 pm	14	15 Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den
16	17 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	18	19 HF Net 7:00 pm 3960 +/-3KHz	20	21 3 rd Friday Night Dinner	22 Field Day Bush Park
23 Field Day	24 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	25	26 MS150 Awards Banquet HF Net 7:00 pm 3960 +/-3KHz	27	28	29
30						



**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>

Editor: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, k5cam@arrrl.net

Production Team: Claude Sessions, K5HFY, claudes@juno.com

John Moore, KK5NU, 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 Memorial Emergency Radio Association's 145.470 and 444.55 repeaters.

To obtain information about joining BVARC or its activities, 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.

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 4

April 2002

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



12/1/2099 E
Allen Mattis N5AFV
5314 WIGTON DR
HOUSTON TX 77096-5115

**REMEMBER THE MAY9TH MEETING
WILL BE AT OLLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
SEE DETAILS AND MAP INSIDE!**