



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

OCTOBER 2002

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 10

ELECTIONS FOR NEW BOARD IN NOVEMBER

Elections are coming up in November and it is time for members to step up and volunteer. Brazos Valley Amateur Radio club was started with people willing to put their time in to support the club by volunteering for board positions. Without their effort and the people over the years that have put their time in, the club would not have survived. Over the years several board members have volunteered for multiple terms due to the lack of volunteers for board positions. Everyone that has spent many long hours working to keep Brazos Valley Amateur Radio club going is working not only to keep the club alive but they are working to keep the hobby alive. The membership needs to get involved now.

I know that everyone has limited time and it is difficult to make time for other areas. Only a few hours a week is necessary to handle a board position. Contact Kevin, KD5O, and let him know what position you are interested in. The club needs your support, for the club and the hobby!

The date for the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club's annual banquet has been determined. Due to the New Year's holiday, the **banquet will be held on January 10th, 2003**. The location, which will be picked at the October Board of Directors meeting, will determine the start time. We are looking at an earlier one this year possible around 7:00 PM. So keep an eye on the newsletter and the web site for the location and time.

PRESIDENTS CORNER

Another year has passed for Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club. Membership and participation is down just like so many other clubs across the U.S. Everyone works hard on keeping their club alive as well as trying to find the magic solution that will keep their club active and enjoyable. No one has seemed to have found that magic piece of the puzzle but everyone keeps trying. The members of the Houston Amateur Radio club worked hard but were never able to find that piece of the puzzle so their club died.

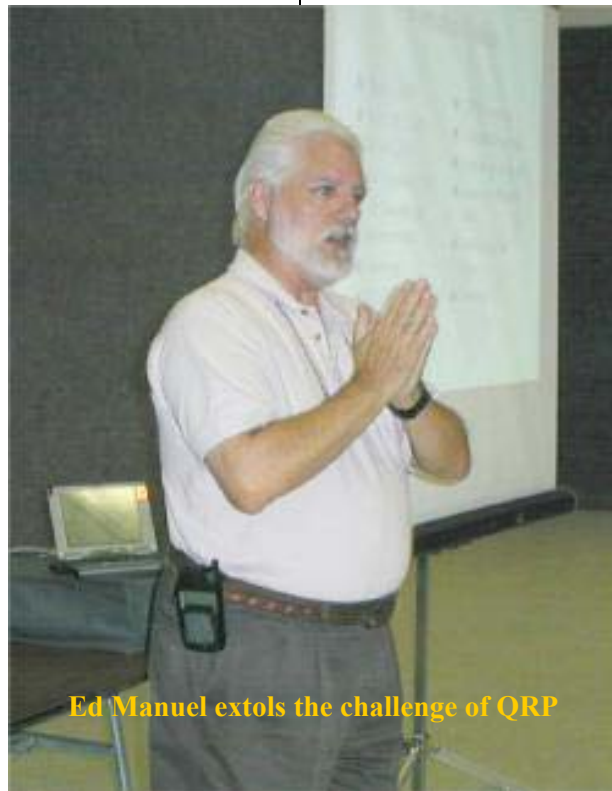
The only way we can prevent this from happening to Brazos Valley is member support. When I joined the club about 10 years ago, it had almost 300 members (297 was the number I remember). Since then, the club has lost membership every year. This last year membership dropped by 20 members which was one of the reasons for a budget

shortfall. But with the hard work of several board members with the indoor swap-meet, the treasury was balanced out.

I want the club to grow and become a place for people to get involved with amateur radio. Brazos Valley Amateur Radio club has the foundation to become one of the largest clubs in Texas but it will take effort, energy, and determination from the club as a whole to do this.

If the members want the club to survive, they need to

(Continued on page 4)



Ed Manuel extols the challenge of QRP

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@esicontrols.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-

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
7:00 New York Coffee Shop

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES **OCTOBER 3, 2002**

Attendees: Mike Hardwick, President; Rex Ritz, Treasurer; Cameron Mitchell, Corresponding Secretary; Kevin Foto, Past President; Ross Lawler, Director; John Gilmore, Director; Larry Jacobson, visitor and former president.

Meeting called to order at 7:58 by Mike. Mike discussed the possibility of streamlining the by-laws. Discussion will continue later.

Rex presented the treasurer's report. A copy is available from him.

Cam presented the corresponding secretary's report.

Ross reported that the tech class did not have any students and the project was discontinued. Club membership and financial problems were discussed.

Marie Schaer was approved unanimously to be the new newsletter editor.

The possibility of a Saturday morning swap-meet was discussed. This is tentatively scheduled for March 15, 2003.

The time for the annual banquet was misstated in the September Newsletter. It will not be earlier. The December general meeting will be held at the Sugar Land Library on Eldridge. Kevin Foto agreed to coordinate the home-brew program for the December meeting.

The Awards Banquet venues were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Got some information that you think would interest other hams? Got an opinion to get off your chest? Then you have something that the newsletter needs! Articles! Beside needing an editor for the newsletter, it needs articles. If you have something or would like to be the editor let the board know.

The **November Meeting**, beside being our annual elections is the BVARC Chili Supper night. So get your recipes ready and bring out the best and hottest(?) chili that you can cook. Contact Ross, W5HFF and let him know what kind of mouth watering (burning!) dish you will be bringing.

The **December Meeting** will be held in the meeting room of the Sugar Land Public Library, 550 Eldridge, at 7 PM due to a scheduling conflict. December is our "Home Brew" night and we will let everyone know as soon as possible on a location for the program. **So get your "home brew" specials ready for the December meeting!**

The BVARC Board of Directors would like to thank **Lockard & White Telecommunications Engineers** for the production of the newsletter.

THE BVARC RAG CHEW NET

September 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.

9/04/02—N5CPA, K5CEK, K5VRJ, AB5BA, K5JWM, K5HFY, WB5SRN, KD5O, K5LJ, KK5UO, AF5T, KB5F, WA8LEQ, N5VXU, KK0CW. (15)

9/11/02—N5CPA, K5VRJ, AB5BA, K5CEK, K5JWM, K5LJ, KB5F, KD5QPX, W5BYQ, W5DDD, AF5T. (11)

9/18/02—N5CPA, K5HFY, K5CEK, K5JWM, WA5VRB, WB5SRN, N5VXU. (7)

9/25/02—N5CPA, K5CEK, K5JWM, KB5F, WA5VRB, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KK5UO, WB5SRN, NM5K, K5LJ. (11)
Someone told us at 7:10pm that we were interfering with the Alabama Emergency Net which had been activated on 3965KHz because of hurricane Isadore. Since 3960KHz was also occupied, we closed the net and cleared the frequency.

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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:

8/12 – 19 – Kevin, KD5O
8/19 – 24 – Joe, K5JWM
8/26 – 21-Doug, KC5VYZ
9/2-14 Cam, K5CAM

9/9 – 21 Kevin, KD5O

E P O

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SHIP TO WAREHOUSE:

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HOUSTON, TX 77063
713 787-0599
713 268-1044 fax

9/16 – 19 Joe, K5JWM
9/23 – 24 Doug, KC5VYZ
9/30 – 18 – John, K5LKJ
10/7 – 22 – Cam, K5CAM
10/14 - 19 – Kevin, KD5O
10/21 – 23 - Joe, K5JWM
11/4 – 24 – Cam, K5CAM

AMATEUR RADIO TESTING

RESULTS OF THE October 8th
B-VARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION
by: John Moore, KK5NU

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, October 8, 2002 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
John Moore, KK5NU
George Ontiko, KM5VP

Three examination elements were administered during the course of the evening to three applicants; with and additional Technician Licensee grand-fathering to General. Two unlicensed candidates passed the Technician license exam, and a General Class Licensee upgraded to Extra; with the total passed elements being 3. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

Congratulations to the following who passed an exam; and/or upgraded:

Kenneth D. Green - - Technician
Thomas G. Miller - KD5TOP - General
Charles N. Perry - - Technician
Charles G. Weldy - KC5EXU - Extra

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

☐mail – jwm@hal-pc.org www.hal-pc.org/~jwm

SCANNER JACK'S CORNER

Here are the SKYWARN and HURRICANE frequencies.

FREQ	MODE	USE
154.490	FM	FT. BEND CO E.O.C.
146.840	FM	HOU. E.O.C.
154.680	FM	D.P.S. CAR TO DISP. HOU.
155.460	FM	D.P.S. DISP. TO CAR HOU.
154.695	FM	D.P.S. CAR TO DISP. PIERCE
155.445	FM	D.P.S. DISP. TO CAR
155.535	FM	D.P.S. PIERCE RICHMOND
REPEATER		
159.210	FM	D.P.S. HOU. TX. CITY
REPEATER		
TRUNK ID,S		
8336	FM	HARRIS CO. E.O.C
15376	FM	TRANSTAR HARRIS CO
32944	FM	CITY OF HOU T.R.S.
E.O.C. N.W.S.		
304.800	AM	HURRICANE HUNTER PLANE
308.400	AM	HURRICANE HUNTER PLANE
344.600	AM	HURRICANE HUNTER PLANE
156.250	FM	COAST GUARD
156.800	FM	COAST GUARD
157.100	FM	COAST GUARD
FOR SWLS		
14.325	USB	HURRICANE WATCH NET
7.285	LSB	ARES DAY
3.873	LSB	ARES NIGHT
7.248	LSB	RACES
2.182	USB	COAST GUARD
2.670	USB	COAST GUARD
4.426	USB	COAST GUARD
6.501	USB	COAST GUARD
8.764	USB	COAST GUARD
13.089	USB	COAST GUARD
4.369	USB	WLO
8.788	USB	WLO
8.806	USB	WLO
13.110	USB	WLO
12.359	USB	SHIPS

FROM
SCANNER JACK
Jack Roberts KB5TMY

PRESIDENTS CORNER

(Continued from page 1)

support the club in many ways, not just for club elections but for club functions. This November meeting is not only for elections but it is for the Annual Chili Supper. Ross has had very few people come forward on bringing chili (I hope we don't have to run to the store and pick-up several cans of Wolf Brand Chili!). I guess the members are more into eating than cooking!

I hope that the new year will bring fresh energy to the club. So to help the club survive, there several by-law changes will be presented to the general membership for approval at the November meeting. These changes are to help the club survive both now and in the future using the current level of membership support. The board of directors have discussed the changes in depth over the last few months and were not considered lightly. As you read the proposed changes, think about the future of the club and its survival. If there are better recommendations or ideas, bring it up during the vote.

The proposed changes to the by-laws are as follows:

1. Raise current full membership to \$20.00 per year;
2. Add a student membership at \$10.00 per year;
3. Change the term of all officers to 2 years with staggered terms – this years election will be for Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer, and one At-Large position. Next year will for President, recording secretary, and the other At-Large position. The Past President will maintain that position for two years.
4. Eliminate one of the At-Large positions but tie it into club membership level: up to 50 members – 1 at-large position; 51 to 150 members – 2 at-large positions; 151 to 250 members – 3 at-large positions; above 251 members – 4 at-large positions.
5. Any other changes in the by-laws that the above changes effects.

The by-law changes will be presented as 4 change for voting purposes. Once the votes are in, the by-laws will be modified and presented to the Board of Directors for approval at the next BOD meeting in December.

So come out to the next meeting in November. Bring some chili, help out with club functions and help shape Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.

Mike
N5VCX

HOUSTON
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PRESIDENT

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FCC ENFORCEMENT:
YOU CANT USE THOSE RADIOS ON
FIRE CHANNELS

Back on this side of the Atlantic, the FCC has told a fire department to stop using illegally modified ham radio gear. The FCC's Daryl Duckworth, NN0W, explains: "The Enforcement Bureau has notified the Bon Secour Fire and Rescue Department in Alabama that the Amateur equipment they were using was contrary to Commission rules because it had been modified to operate on Public Safety frequencies. The letter referred to several Icom IC-V8 handie-talkies."

The note went to Karl Bingert who is the Chief Bon Secour Fire & Rescue Department. It told him that the use of Amateur Radio units of any kind, modified to operate on its frequencies, is against the Commission's rules and would result in enforcement action by the FCC. (FCC, RAIN)

Newsline

Public Service Events

Here are some events for the rest of the year. Come out and help. Put your license and radio to a good use. If you like the hobby, this on of the best ways to promote the hobby and help a worthy cause at the same time. Remember, one of the main reasons for amateur radio is to help the community. If you are interested in any of these events, give me a call and I will send you the information on the event. Call me at 713-771-4625 or e-mail n5vcx@worldnet.att.net.

KRTS 25K Warm-up Run

<http://www.houstonmasters.org/activities.htm#KRTS>

Sunday, November 10, 2002 25 hams needed

HP Houston Marathon

<http://www.hphoustonmarathon.com/>

Sunday, January 19, 2003 140 hams needed

Memorial Hermann 30K Warm-up Run

<http://www.slfinishlinesports.com/home.html>

Sunday, December 8, 2002 25 hams needed

Add don't forget the MS150 Bike Ride

<http://www.ms150.org>

Saturday/Sunday, April 12th & 13, 2003 120 hams needed

FCC ENFORCEMENT:
FCC BACKS REPEATER OWNERS
BAN OF UNWANTED USER

The FCC is once again backing up a repeater operator who wants to ban a particular user from the system. Its all taking place in Ohio. Again, the FCC's Daryl Duckworth tells us about the situation and the agency's position in favor of the people running the machine:

Duckworth: "The Enforcement Bureau sent a Warning Notice to Billy R. Marshall, N8ORF, warning him to stay off of the W8HFF repeater system in the Toledo Ohio area. The Toledo Mobile Radio Association had issued two letters to Marshall requesting him to stay off the repeater due to his failure to follow operational rules.

The Enforcement Bureau reminded Marshall that control operators may take whatever steps are necessary to insure compliance with the rules and that they will be backed up by the Commission"

Marshall was given 20 days from the date of receipt of the FCC letter to reply and outline what steps he has taken to comply. (FCC, RAIN)

Newsline

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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**

B-VARC Calendar - November 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Breakfast - Viking Den -7:30 New York Coffee Shop 7:00
3 Novemberfest Bike Ride	4 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	5 VE Session 6:30 pm	6 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	7 BOD Meeting 7:30 pm	8	9 Breakfast - Viking Den -7:30 New York Coffee Shop 7:00
10 KRTS 25K Warm-Up Run	11 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	12	13 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	14 Club Meeting Chili Supper & Elections 7:30 pm	15 3 rd Friday Night Dinner*	16 Breakfast - Viking Den -7:30 New York Coffee Shop 7:00
17	18 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	19	20 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	21	22	23 Breakfast - Viking Den -7:30 New York Coffee Shop 7:00
24	25 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	26	27	28	29	30

3rd. Friday Dinner - 6:30pm at TIO PEPE's SPANISH RESTAURANT, 5213 Cedar, in Bellaire. It is 1 block N. of Bellaire Blvd., and 2 blocks E. of Chimney Rock.

B-VARC Calendar - December 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	3	4 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	5 BOD Meeting 7:30 PM	6	7 Breakfast - Viking Den 7:30 New York Coffee Shop 7:00
8 30K Warm-Up Run	9 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	10 VE Session 6:30 pm	11 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	12 Club Meeting 7:30 pm Sugar Land Library	13	14 Breakfast - Viking Den -7:30 New York Coffee Shop 7:00
15	16 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	17	18 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	19	20 3 rd Friday Dinner*	21 Breakfast - Viking Den -7:30 New York Coffee Shop 7:00
22	23 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	24	25 HF Net 7:00 pm 3962.5 +/-3KHz	26	27	28 Breakfast - Viking Den -7:30 New York Coffee Shop 7:00
29	30 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	31				



**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@arrl.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 Cameron Mitchell at 281-565-4665. New members and prospective hams should contact the Club's "Elmer", Ross, W5HFF at 281-342-3340 or w5hff@juno.com.

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October 2002

**BRAZOS VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 1630
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Next general meeting is
on November 14
Chili Supper Night
& Club Elections**