



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2003

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 2

Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act Reintroduced in US House

*Reprinted with permission from the ARRL website,
<<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2003/02/14/8/?nc=1>>*

NEWINGTON, CT, Feb 14, 2003--The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act has again been introduced in the US House of Representatives. The measure is an ARRL legislative initiative. Florida Rep Michael Bilirakis put the latest version of the bill, HR 713, into the legislative hopper on February 12. It has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. When last introduced in 2001, the measure was known as HR 817.

HR 713 is aimed at ensuring the availability of spectrum to Amateur Radio operators. It would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations to or sharing with other services unless the FCC provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" elsewhere. Bilirakis, a Florida Republican, has twice before sponsored similar legislation at the League's recommendation. A Senate version of the bill is pending.

The measure would amend the Communications Act to require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio and the Amateur-Satellite Service in the event of a reallocation of primary amateur allocations, any reduction in secondary amateur allocations, or "additional allocations within such bands

that would substantially reduce the utility thereof" to amateurs.

The ARRL is urging members of the Amateur Radio community to contact their representatives in Congress and request that they cosponsor HR 713. Experience has shown that, while most members of Congress understand and appreciate the benefits of Amateur Radio, some may

be reluctant to sign onto a technical piece of legislation without some indication of support from their own constituents. A [sample letter](#) is available on the ARRL Web site.

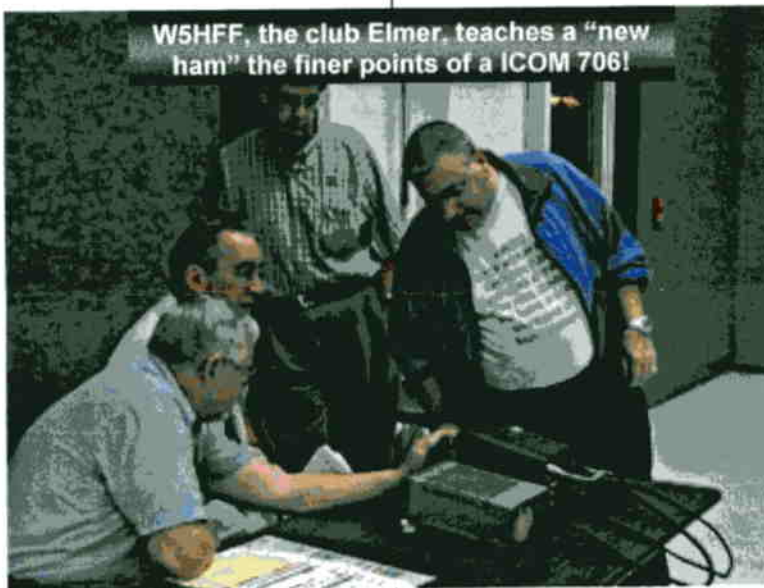
The 2001 version of the measure attracted 53 cosponsors in the House but last spring became one of many pieces of legislation caught up in the so-called "Enron logjam," during which the Internet and Telecommunications

Subcommittee did not meet, although its full committee, Energy and Commerce, held numerous hearings concerning Enron.

The text of HR 713 is expected to be available within the next few business days via the [Thomas](#) Web site.

New Ham Night a Success

BVARC members provided guidance to several new hams at New Ham Night on February 14th at the Sugar Land Community Center. Ross Lawler (W5HFF) set up a demonstration HF rig. Rick Hiller (W5RH) gave a talk on antenna modeling software and web resources for antenna builders. John Moore (KK5NU) provided information on the VE testing sessions.



FIELD DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!! Contact Orin Snook, KB5F at osnook@ev1.net

2003 Club Officers:

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

Acting Vice President:
Ross Lawler, W5HFF
w5hff@juno.com

Acting Secretary/Treasurer:
Cameron Mitchell
k5cam@arrl.net

Corresponding Secretary:
Joe Morgan, K5JWM
k5jwm@att.net

One Year Board Member:
Dave Scott, WD8RZA
wd8rza@aol.com

Two 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,
Sugar Land Community Center,
224 Matlage Way

Board of Directors Meeting
First Thursday of each month,
Sugar Land Community Center,
224 Matlage Way

Volunteer Examiner Program
BVARC administers Amateur License
Exams on the 2nd Tuesday of each
month at the HCC Scarcella Technology
Campus, 10141 Cash Rd. in Stafford.
Contact John Moore, KK5NU

Eating Schedule
Third Friday Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Location announced in the calendar.

Saturday morning breakfasts -
7:00 a.m. New York Coffee Shop
9720 Hillcroft, Houston
7:30 a.m. Viking Drive In
2939 S. Main, Stafford

Rag Chew Net
Monday night on 145.47 (123 PL) at
9:00 PM

Public Service Net
3910 KHz +/- 3KHz Wednesdays
at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting (UNAPPROVED)

February 6, 2002

Attendees: President; Mike Hardwick-N5VCX, 2 -Year Director/Club Elmer Ross Lawler-W5HFF, Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer, Cameron Mitchell K5CAM, Robert Moore-KK5UO, 1-Year Director Dave Scott-W5DZC, Recording Secretary, Joe W Morgan - K5JWM, Past Recording Secretary Bill Allen, Visitor Allen Brier.

Meeting called to order at 7:37 p.m. by President Mike Hardwick.

Comments: Cameron will stand in for Ron as Corresponding Secretary/ Treasurer. Ron Eisenbrey now has a job in San Antonio. Scanner Jack corner will be discontinued for the news letter .Ross said he will set up radio for new ham night ,and made comments on starting 6 meter net. Allen Brier comments on Orin Snook situation with his 100 ft tower in Missouri City, and to see if the club could help out any way with Legal Defense Fund, and any other support that might help. Ross motion that we help Orin, Joe second the motion.

Emergency Business: Motion made for Cameron for Temp Treasurer, Motion past by all. (By-Laws need to be read and approved by Board next meeting). Need someone to volunteer for Vice President and Treasurer.

Old Business: Still need Calendar updated for 18 months. Discussions on the parking lot at March 15th-Tailgate sale. Review Board of Minutes for Aug, Dec,Nov.2002 all past review, motion by Cameron second by Dave Need Field Day committee volunteers.

New Business: Cameron passed out Treasurer Report for review. Discussion about March program on line noise. Review Board of Minutes for Jan 2003 review, motion by Dave, second by Ross. Dave will check on fire training center for field day.

Announcements: BVARC members it's time to start volunteering for field day 2003.

Membership count:123

Adjourn: 9:18 p.m.

Submitted by Recording Secretary Joe W. Morgan, K5JWM

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors would like to than Lockhard & White Telecommunications Engineers for the printing of thi newsletter.

2nd Annual Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

MIX 'n' MATCH SWAP MEET

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon March 15, 2003

Sugar Land Community Center

226 Matlage Way, Sugar Land

Talk-in on 145.470 (minus offset) 123.0 tone

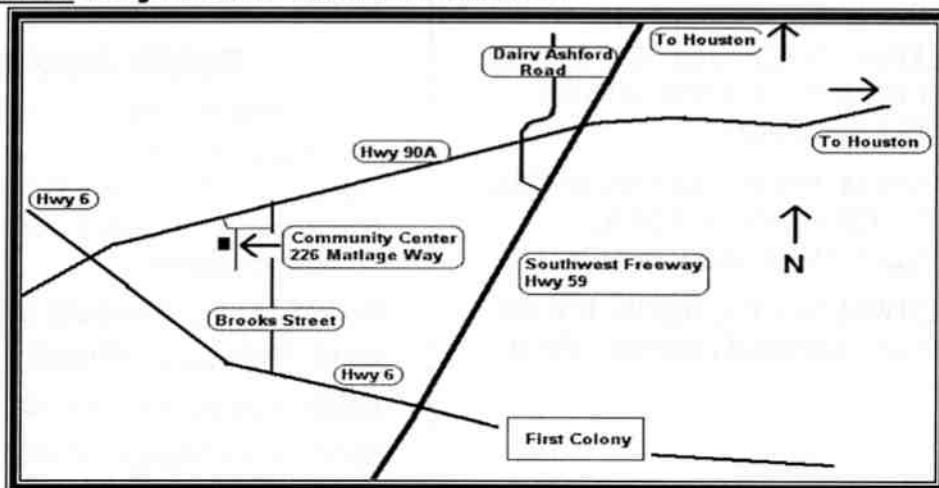
Table set-up starts at 7:00 a.m. Community Center closes at 1:00 p.m.

\$1.00 Admission

Refreshments available

Tables: **Club members** - 2 tables free, \$5.00 each after the first 2
 Non members - \$5.00 each or 2 tables free with membership!
 Commercial tables - \$5.00 each

Time to do that spring-cleaning and bring out the best of the worst or the worst of the best of your equipment, accessories or just plain junk and get rid of it. Come on out and see what equipment you can mix or match with yours. Contact Mike, N5VCX at 713-771-4625, n5vcx@worldnet.att.net or Ross, W5HFF at 281-342-3340, w5hff@juno.com for your tables or information.



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Rag Chew Net

By Joe Morgan, K5JWM

January 2003

NOTE FREQUENCY CHANGE 3910 KHz

3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00 pm,
 Joe Morgan, K5JWM, Net Coordinator

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.

01/01/03__K5JWM,KE5SR,K5CEK,N5CPA,K5LJ,K5HFY, KD5O KC5VYZ, K5LBU, K5VRJAB5BA ,AB5RJ check-ins(12)

01/08/03__K5JWM,N5CPA ,KE5SR, K5CEK, WC5S, KB5F AB5WG, K5VRJ, AB5BA, K5LJ, KD5O,K5HFY, AB5RJ WB5VYR check-ins(14)

01/15/03__K5JWM, N5CPA, KE5SR, K5CEK, AB5WG, K5LBU K5HFY, KB5F, K5VRJ, AB5BA, AB5RJ check-ins(11)

01/22/03__K5JWM, N5CPA, KE5SR, K5CEK, K5LJ, K5HFY, KB5F, WC5S, K5VRJ, AB5BA, AB5RJ, N5VXU check-ins(12)

01/29/03__K5JWM, N5CPA, NM5K, K5CEK, K5LJ, WB5VYR, KD5QLK, K5VRJ, AB5BA check-ins(9)

Amateur Radio Testing

Results of the January 14th Testing Session

by: John Moore, KK5NU

BVARC sponsored and administered the ARRL-VEC Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, February 11th, 2002 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

Members Of The VE Team:

- Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
- John Moore, KK5NU
- John Koppenhaver, N0BNA
- Randy Pollard, AK5G

Two examination elements were administered during the course of the evening to two applicants. Both unlicensed candidate passed the Technician license exam, with the total passed elements being 2. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

Congratulations to the following who passed an exam:

- Jeffery P. Fussel {KD5VGE}
- William T. Shircliffe {KD5VGF}

Many thanks to all the team members and assistants who volunteer their valuable time and effort each month. All of us at BVARC thank everyone at HCC Scarcella Technology Center for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

Public Service Net

Doug Woodruff, KC5VYZ - Coordinator

The 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:

01/27 24 Doug Woodruff, KC5VYZ

02/03 27 Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM

02/10 26 Kevin Foto, KD5O

02/17 29 Joe Morgan, K5JWM

Saltgrass Link System

by: Mike Hardwick, N5VCX

The Saltgrass Link system is becoming one of the more used link systems in Texas. For the hams out there that do not have some of the frequencies, here they are.

Location	Frequency	Offset	Tone
Houston	443.825	Plus	103.5
Houston	146.920	Minus	103.5
Woodlands	442.700	Plus	103.5
Galveston	444.725	Plus	103.5
Clute	444.425	Plus	103.5
Brazoria	147.340	Plus	103.5
Katy	444.075	Plus	103.5
New Waverly	442.725	Plus	162.2
Plum Grove	444.175	Plus	162.2
Victoria	443.225	Plus	103.5
Victoria	147.160	Plus	103.5
Flatonina	443.825	Plus	141.3
Davy	443.125	Plus	141.3
San Antonio	444.575	Plus	141.3
New Braunfels	443.500	Plus	141.3
Beeville	443.525	Plus	107.2
Bandera	442.375	Plus	141.3

02/03

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President's Corner

The New Ham and New member night brought in 3 new members to the club. New members are needed in clubs to bring in new ideas and interests. Everyone of the club members should try and bring in a new member each year. If we did this the club would really grow.

The 2nd Annual Mix & Match Swap Meet is coming up on March 15th. If you would like to help out with the swap meet, contact one of the board members and let them know. The swap meet is to help raise funds for the club treasury.

We are still looking for replacements for Vice President and treasurer/corresponding secretary. With Scanner Jack and Ron Eisenbrey leaving us for bigger and better things, their positions are open. If you are interested in helping with the management of the club, contact one of the board members and let them know.

Remember, without support from club members, the club will die.

YAESU INTRODUCES FT-897



The FT-897 is a rugged, innovative, multi-band, multimode portable transceiver for the amateur radio MF/HF/VHF/UHF bands. Providing coverage of the 160-10 meter bands plus the 6 m, 2 m, and 70 cm bands, the FT-897 includes operation on the SSB, CW, AM, FM, and Digital modes, and it's capable of 20-Watt portable operation using internal batteries, or up to 100 Watts when using an external 13.8-volt DC power source.

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02/03

Got OSX? Got Xwindows?

There's a new website featuring ham radio programs that will run under Mac OSX or Xwindows. The url is: <http://homepage.mac.com/smuncy/hamradio/HamsAndX.html>

Silent Keys

E. J. Hadash, Jr., N5WAJ, age 48, became a Silent Key on February 27, 2003. "EJ" was the Red Cross Emergency Communications Coordinator for the Houston area.

Marion G. Chambers, W1MGC, ex KB5PAJ became a Silent Key on February 27, 2003. Both Marion and her son, Michael Chambers, WS1C ex KI5SC were club members in the late 80's and early 90's. Her Mother was one of the first radio operators to work at the stations at Woods Hole and Martha's Vineyard, MA. Her Father, one of the first Ship's radio officers for the Canadian Merchant Fleet.

Public Service Events

By Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, President

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 is one 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 information on the event. Call me at 713-771-4625 or e-mail n5vcx@arrl.net.

Bayou City Classic 10K Run

n5vcx@arrl.net Downtown Houston
March 8th, 2003, 15 operators needed

The Space Race Clear Lake/NASA Bike Ride
n5vcx@swbell.net, March 9th, 2003, 30 ops & net control needed

MS150 Volunteer Training
March 15th, 2003; for ms150 operators
[hou.hams@ms150.org](mailto:houshams@ms150.org)

The Bluebonnet Century Bike Ride
n5vcx@arrl.net, March 23rd, 2003, 25 operators needed

The Tour de Cypress Bike Ride
n5vcx@arrl.net, March 30th, 2003, 25 operators needed

Special Olympics Rosenberg
April 6th, 2002 15 operators needed, Lamar Stadium
kc5vyyz@arrl.net

MS150 Meeting MS Office April 7th & 9th, 2003
For MS150 Operators [hou.hams@ms150.org](mailto:houshams@ms150.org)

Houston to Austin MS150 Bike Ride
Saturday & Sunday, April 12th & 13th, 2003 125 hams needed contact Mike n5vcx@arrl.net
www.ms150.org, [hou.hams@ms150.org](mailto:houshams@ms150.org)

March of Dimes Walk-a-thon
April 27th, 2003 15 needed at each location
n5vcx@arrl.net
U of H Main Campus
Greenspoint Mall
U of H Clear Lake
Cynthia Woods Pavillion
First Colony Mall

Shiner Bash Bike Ride
May ??th, 2003 15 needed on each leg
n5vcx@arrl.net
Houston & San Antonio & Austin to Shiner

Arthritis Joint Walk
May 17th, 2003 n5vcx@arrl.net 10 needed at each location
Memorial Herman SE
Memorial Herman SW
Woodlands Malls

MS150 Bike Ride Awards & Volunteer Party
June ??th, 2003 MS150 Volunteers
[hou.hams@ms150.org](mailto:houshams@ms150.org)

QRP in the Park

All are invited to join the Houston QRP (HGRP) group for their annual Spring Saturday in the Park - Saturday, April 26th, 2003 starting at about 0830 hours (Local Time) till we all get tired and quit. Houston's Memorial Park is the scene of this year's event. From the ball fields just south of Memorial Drive, take the entrance into the "Picnic area" through the gates and keeping to the right as you make the loop through area. We'll be on the right just before the loop road makes its turn back to the left to start the circle back to the entrance/exit.

It should be a fun time, weather permitting, and there should be lots of QRP rigs to play with. Last year we even had a small beam erected on the top of an extension ladder.

For details point to: <http://www.hgrp.stevens.com>

The beginning of the year had some unexpected changes on the board of directors. The board is currently looking for a "few good hams" to serve as Vice President & Treasurer/Corresponding Secretary. If you would like to help with club duties & functions, please contact one of the board members and let them know what position you would like.

