



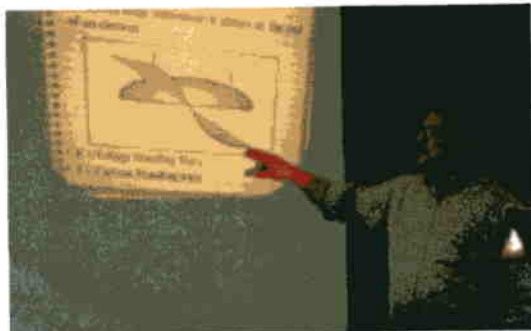
BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

MAY 2003

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 5



Rick Hiller (W5RH-1), our resident antenna guru, lectures on antenna current voltage nodes at the May BVARC meeting.

Orin Snook Reports on his Trial

The non-jury trial was 20-23 May. Motions are being finalized to the court, due June 6. The case is one of First Impressions for the 5th Circuit and court's decision will be published; however, it could take as much as a year. The judge has ordered the city to leave me alone in the meantime.

I am convinced that our UNANSWERED case was a grand slam home run out of the park. We invited the judge to make some law and believe he will. This means the city will most likely appeal. I believe the case is so strong as to be upheld by the 5th Circuit. Time to navigate the appeal process is unknown and settlement of unspecified damages is also unknown.

I am convinced that this time delay creates a window of opportunity for the other 70 hams in Missouri City to apply for antennas/towers with no governing ordinance.

I am convinced beyond all doubt that had I done anything wrong, or the city done anything right, that the legal process/rules would be hard pressed to rule against me or any other ham.

My case differs from all other PRB-1 cases in a couple of areas:

1. No damages have ever been collected from PRB-1 cases. Federal civil rights (Sec. 1983) abuses

are so prevalent and significant that followed the PRB-1 initial claim, my case should break this mold. Legal fees have been awarded, but only sparingly. The ARRL has a war chest of \$250,000 for the appellate process they may care to share with me(?). Your letters and requests for them to do so would help enormously. Please contact ARRL Gulf Coast Director:

Coy Day, N5OK
PO Box 254
Union City, Oklahoma 73090
(405) 483-5632

n5ok@arrl.org or ARRL staff at www.arrl.org

2. I wrapped myself inside the ARRL/emergency communication blanket - tightly. While international good will and advancement of the art are why we are licensed, emergency plays far better as something the city is "beating up".

3. The FCC has not preempted any situation (yet) and PRB-1 cases have failed to address the "right" to use a particular band. This case does so convincingly.

Field Day Help Needed!

Contact, Orin Snook, KB5F, BVARC Field Day chairman by e-mail at osnook@ev1.net or call (281) 431-9539 for details and more information. Volunteers still needed!!!!!!

Current Legislation Concerning Amateur Radio

by Paul Gray, N0JAA

By now, most of you have heard about the bills pending before both the Senate and House. To summarize, here is a basic rundown of each bill: HR 713 is the "Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003." The intent of this bill is to provide Amateur Radio with equivalent replacement frequencies if the FCC takes frequencies away from the Amateur Radio Service or changes primary or secondary status of any current Amateur Radio frequencies, or if the FCC takes action that would substantially reduce the utility of the Amateur Radio Service. S 537 is a companion bill in the Senate, essentially a verbatim copy of the House bill.

See Legislation on page 2

2003 Club Officers:

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w5hff@juno.com

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foto@texas.net

Rag Chew Net

By Joe Morgan, K5JWM

April 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.

04/02/03_K5JWM, K5CEK, KE5SR, N5CPA, WB5SRN AB5RJ, KB5F, WA5VRB, WC5S, K5HFY. check-ins (10)

04/09/03_K5JWM, N5CPA, WA5VRB, KE5SR, K5CEK K5VRJ, AB5BA, K5LJ, K5HFY, KB9WVG, KB5KBW AB5RJ, W5DDD, KC5JAR check-ins(13)

04/16/03_K5JWM, KC5JAR, K5CEK, KE5SR, K5VRJ AB5BA, N5VXU, N5CPA, K5HFY, AD8A, WC5S, NM5K W5DDD, K5LJ, KB5F, WA5VRB, K5LBU, KB9WVG AB5RJ. check-ins (19)

04/23/03_K5JWM, K5CEK, KE5SR, K5LBU, KB5F N5CPA, KC5JAR, N5WAZ, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KB9WVG K5HFY, N5VXU, WB5VYR, W5UFG, WC5S, AB5RJ. check-ins (17)

04/30/03_K5JWM, K5CEK, KE5SR, KB9WVG, N5CBB N5CPA, NM5K, K5HFY, WA5VRB, K5LJ, KC5JAR KA5JKI. check-ins(12)

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 Den
2939 S. Main, Stafford

Rag Chew Net
3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays
at 7:00 p.m.

Public Service Net
Monday night on 145.47 (123 PL.) at
9:00 PM

Legislation, Continued from page 1

HR-1478 is the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act." The scope of this bill is to treat private land use rules (deed restrictions, etc.) as a state or local regulation in order to allow Amateur Radio operators to use the limited exemption contained in PRB-1 as a valid and legal argument for erecting communications towers.

Nothing is more important to us than the preservation of our hobby. Along with the privileges of holding an Amateur Radio License, the FCC has charged us with the responsibility of serving in the public interest. This includes handling health and welfare traffic, providing emergency communication whenever and wherever needed, and conducting drills and training sessions for the same.

In order to preserve the integrity of our hobby and continue to provide emergency communications, it is imperative that you contact your local Senators and Representatives. Both HR 713 and HR 1478 will be heard in committees later this spring, so the sooner you contact your Congressman and ask him or her to support and/or sponsor these bills, the more likely they will pass and become law.

You say you don't know who your Senator or Representatives are? It is easy to find out. Go to the websites "<http://www.senate.gov>" and "<http://www.house.gov>" and you can find your elected officials there, along with instructions on how to contact them. In this age of increasing terror alerts, bouts of severe weather, and other disasters, it is more important now than ever for us to hone our abilities to provide emergency communications. Unless we do whatever we can to protect these activities, they will become more and more restricted.

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

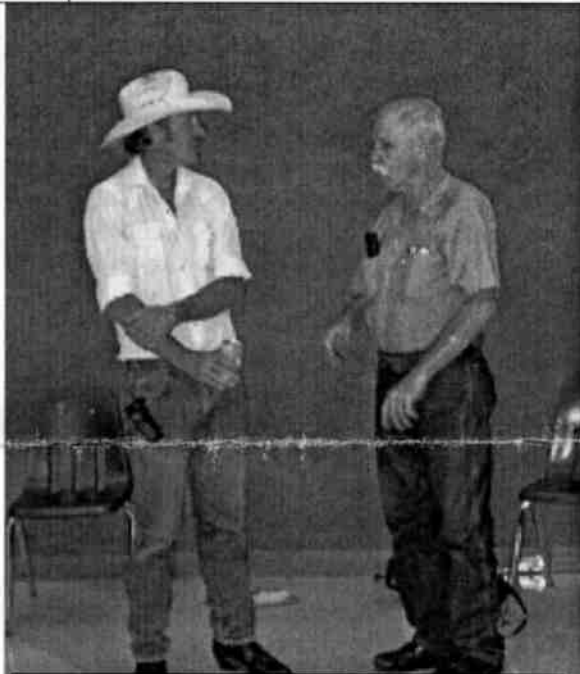


Mack Arp, W5EET and Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM

Membership Meeting May 8, 2003



VP Allen, N5XZ & wife, Connie, KC5VHH



Joe Morgan, Net Manager, K5JWM, and
John Moore, KK5NU

FCC Grants Five 60-Meter Channels

Reprinted with permission from ARRL Bulletin No. 35 <http://www.arrl.org/wlaw/2003-arlb035.html>

The granting of just five spot frequencies--5332, 5348, 5368, 5373, and 5405 kHz--at 60 meters was less of a surprise given opposition expressed last fall by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The NTIA had cited a possible need for the requested band by federal government users and proposed the five specific frequencies for amateur use on a secondary basis. The FCC has granted operation on USB (2K8J3E emission) only, with a maximum effective radiated power limit of 50 W relative to a 0 dB gain antenna--a half-wave dipole. The channels--each with a maximum permissible bandwidth of 2.8 kHz--will be available to General and higher class licensees. "While the new amateur privileges at 5 MHz are not as flexible as we had hoped, we recognize that much has changed since the ARRL petition for rulemaking was submitted to the FCC in the summer of 2001," Summer said. "Federal agencies with homeland security responsibilities have renewed interest in HF radiocommunications." Summer predicted that, over time, amateurs "will develop a record of disciplined, responsible use of the five channels in the public interest that will justify another look at these rather severe initial restrictions."

Results of the May 13th

Testing Session

by John Moore, KK5NU

BVARC administered the ARRL-VEC Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, May 13th, 2003 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

Members Of The VE Team:

- Carl Albrech, AA5JW
- Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
- John Moore, KK5NU
- George Ontiko, KM5VP

Eight examination elements were administered during the course of the evening to eight applicants. Five unlicensed candidates received their new Technician licenses. One Technician upgraded to General, and two passed Element 3, with the total number of elements passed being eight. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%. Congratulations to the following who passed an exam and/or upgraded:

- Kevin E. Froelich {KD5WQQ} Technician
- Edward C. Kovelan, Jr. {KD5WDQ} Element 3
- Tiffany A. Kovelan {KD5WQP} Technician
- Charles D. Leggett {KD5WQO} Technician
- Scott B. Lobdell {KD5WQN} Technician
- Larry M. Morrison {KB5OBJ} General
- Alan W. Vencel {KD5WLP} Element 3
- Debra Wang {KD5WQM} Technician

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.

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02/03

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:

- 4/28 - 33 - John, K5LKJ
- 5/5 - 27 - Cam, K5CAM
- 5/13 - 23 - Kevin, KD5O
- 5/20 - 18 - Joe, K5JWM
- 5/26 - 22 - Mitch K5CAM

0203

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Public Service Events

By Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, President

Here are a few events for the next few months. Come out and help and 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 interested in these events, call me and I will send you the information. 713-771-4625 or e-mail n5vcx@arrl.net.

BP MS150 Awards Party June 25th, 2003
MS150 Volunteers 5 to 8 p.m. Verizon Theater,

Katy Flatland Bike Ride Sunday, July 20th, 2003
7:00 a.m. Katy Mills Mall 25 operators needed

Wings Over Houston Air Show October 18/19, 2003
Jamboree Over the Air (JOTA) October 18/19, 2003

W5RH Antenna Class

Rick Hiller will be conducting a 4 hour antenna modeling class on Saturday, October 4th. If you are interested in designing your own antennas, this class is just for you. Contact Rick at rhiller@sysdev.com and let him know that you are interested. Class size is limited to 15 and all class materials will be provided. Location has yet to be determined but it will either be held near the Astrodome or it will be at the Sugar Land community center.

Need Help for School

OK folks,

I am going to be looking for some help next school year in several of my classes. My new principal has given me the go ahead to try once more to teach ham radio. I have no idea of my class schedule as of yet. I would like to have someone come to at least 3 classes a week, and then 2 classes the next week. My classes last for 90 minutes but only want to do about 30-40 minutes each class. I might try the after school again but the students ride the school buses which makes it hard also. Guys how about thinking about helping this next school year. I will buy you lunch each day. I also need your help in finding a 440 repeater that I can put up at school along with any old 440 HT's that could be programmed just to that repeater so when a student gets a license they can be given one of these and get on the air with there friends from school. Think about this please and spread the word around. I think that I will be able to once more get a key to get in and be able to use the station on weekends.

So a plea from one fellow ham to all the other hams in Houston .

School starts on the 14th of August so if anyone wants to help in this indever let me hear from you. I will be at school this next week as the students are there until Thursday afternoon. I will be there for several days next week also. I will have the 2 meter rig on both repeaters. Or come by and have a cup of coffee. The school is at 9200 Boone Road and is Olle Middle School. Our call is K5OMS.

Just look for the tower with the beams at 75 feet.

CUL

Charles Frost

Frosty, K5LBU

WWW.k5lbu.com

Bush Orders Review of Radio Airwaves Use

By DAVID HO - The Associated Press

Thursday, June 5, 2003; 6:00 PM

WASHINGTON - President Bush ordered a broad review Thursday of how government and industry can better use the nation's radio airwaves, a resource growing increasingly congested with signals from cell phones, wireless gadgets and the military.

Bush directed the Commerce Department to lead the yearlong initiative and produce recommendations for legislation and other policy changes to promote more efficient use of airwaves.

The radio spectrum is a "vital and limited national resource" needed for economic growth, scientific research and homeland security, Bush said.

"The existing legal and policy framework for spectrum management has not kept pace with the dramatic changes in technology," Bush said in a memo to federal agencies. "We must unlock the economic value and entrepreneurial potential of U.S. spectrum assets while ensuring that sufficient spectrum is available to support critical government functions."

Bush said the way government now reviews every change in airwaves use is "a process that is often slow and inflexible and can discourage the introduction of new technology."

The Commerce Department is to hold a series of public meetings to develop recommendations for airwaves use by local governments and industry. To study federal spectrum use, that department will guide a task force that includes representatives from more than a dozen executive branch departments and agencies.

The cell phone and wireless industries, in need of increasing amounts of airwaves space, welcomed the announcement.

"The tools we have for formulating spectrum policy are broken and we look forward to working with the task force," said Tom Wheeler, president of the Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association.

The Federal Communications Commission, which oversees U.S. airwaves not used by the federal government, will have a consulting role in the review.

In April, the FCC doubled the airwaves available for emergency and public safety workers, giving a boost to police seeking better crisis communications and firefighters wanting to send video from inside burning buildings.

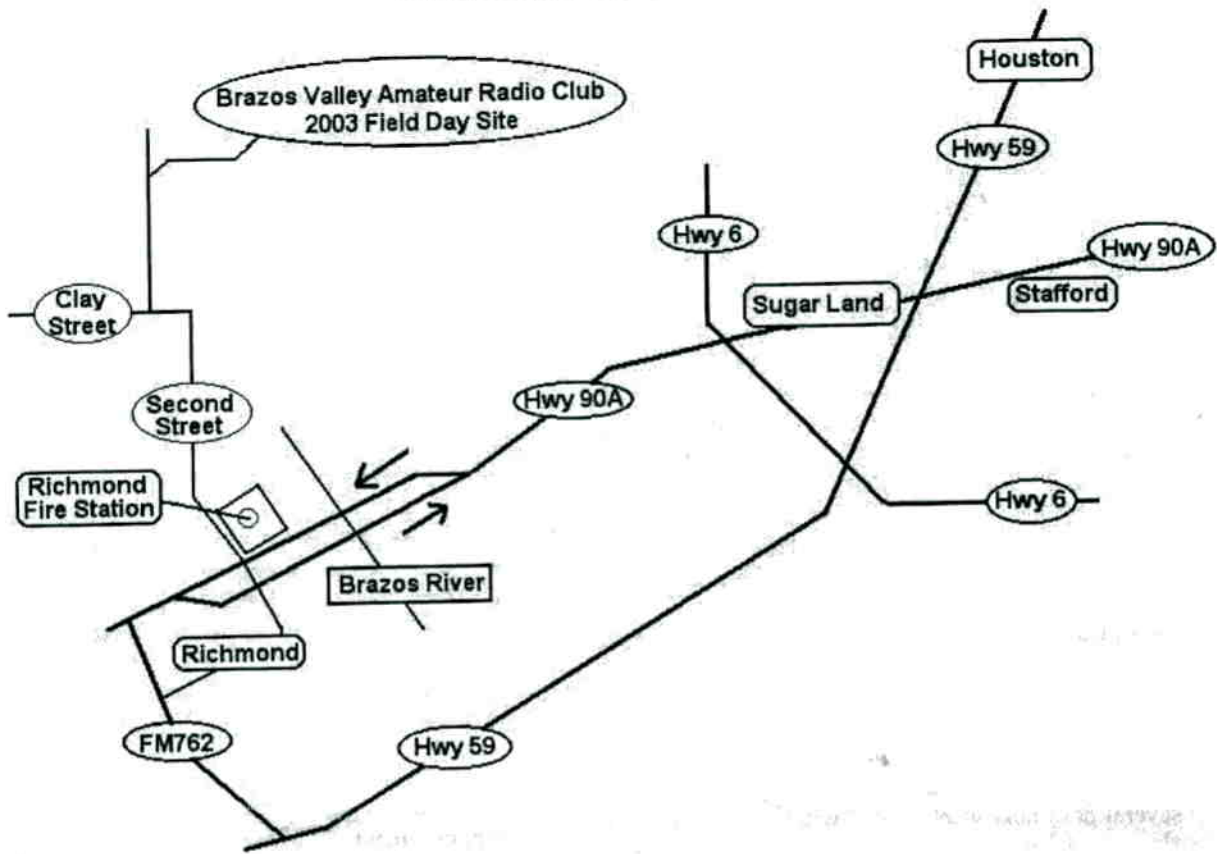
The agency decided last month to allow cell phone companies and others to lease unused portions of their airwaves, letting them make deals for slices of spectrum to fill cell phone dead zones or provide wireless services to certain locations for limited times.

White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

Federal Communications Commission:

<http://www.fcc.gov>

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB FIELD DAY LOCATION



BVARC Field Day operations will take place at the Richmond Fire Training Center, 260 Clay Road, Richmond, Texas. Set-up begins at 7 a.m., June 28th. The contest starts at noon on Saturday, June 28th and ends at noon on Sunday June 29th, 2003. Talk-in will be on the 145.450 MHz repeater (no tone). Come on out and help with national amateur radio event the largest amateur radio on-air event. This is a very important event and everyone should come out and participate.

For those of you who are not familiar with Field Day, it was organized in 1933 and is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association for amateur radio. Field Day brings amateur radio operators together in emergency type situations, allowing them to plan, prepare and provide one of the most vital services needed during emergencies and disasters - communications. The objective during the 24-hour contest is to see who can make the highest number of contacts under primitive conditions, using generators, battery-powered equipment, and portable antennas. Special awards are given for "alternative" power sources such as solar, wind, and methane. Approximately 35,000 amateur radio operators across the county participated in last's year event.

2004 MIX & MATCH SWAP MEET

February 28, 2004 will be date for the BVARC Mix & Match Swap Meet. The entire community center will be available for the swap meet as well as the back parking lot for a tailgate area. The new date is between the Smithville and the Brenham swap meets so this should improve attendance. Currently we are looking for someone to coordinate and plan the event. Anyone that is interested in helping with the swap meet, please contact one of the board of director members and let them know. The July BOD meeting will be a planning session for the swap meet.

