



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

JULY 2007

VOLUME 31 ISSUE 7

## BVARC JULY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7:30 PM, Thursday, July 12.

AT THE SUGAR LAND COMMUNITY CENTER

Hear Orin Snook's presentation on deed-restricted antennas and Orin's son's presentation on vampire electronics.

## *FIELD DAY 2007*

It may have rained on both Saturday and Sunday of Field Day 2007, but that didn't dampen the spirits of the many amateur radio operators who come to participate in this major amateur radio annual club event. Antennas were assembled and deployed, radio operating stations were assembled, power generators fired up and contacts were made. As usual, Allen Brier, N5XZ led the way with over 800+ contacts on CW, as well as 100+ contacts on SSB.

Bill Stone, WS5H, disassembled his home station's V-Quad 10 meter antenna and brought it to Field Day and, as luck would have it, both 10 meters and 6 meters were open during Field Day, providing a lot of extra enjoyment for the Field Day radio operators. (Continued on Page 6)

(Two Field Day 2007 pictures appear below and additional pictures may be found on Page 9 of this newsletter.)

## JUNE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The June General Membership meeting was held at 14141 SW Frwy at the Unocal building. The featured speaker was Steve Lee of the Federal Communications Commission discussing amateur radio enforcement by the FCC.



Larry, K5LJ, Field Day 2007



Allen, N5XZ, Field Day 2007

## President's Corner

Sorry, but Mike Hardwick's "President's Corner" article was not available as this went to press. It seems that Mike, who is always providing public service coverage for the bike rides here in the South Texas area, is off on a bike ride of his own out in the wilds of Montana. Look for Mike's "President's Corner" article to return in next months newsletter, and maybe he will have some Montana adventure stories to share with us then.

---

### Houston Amateur Radio Supply

181 Cypresswood Drive

Houston, Texas 77388-6038

800-471-7373 281-355-7373 281-355-8007/FAX

Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM to 3 PM

Repair most brands of radios, amps, and other gear  
Factory Authorized Repair center for ICOM and Yaesu  
Trade-Ins welcome, Consignment Service  
30 Day Warranty on used equipment

<http://texasparadise.com/hars/> George DiLetto KD0RW

---

## Public Service events

### **Katy Flatland Century Bike Ride 7:00 am Sunday, July 15, 2007**

Bicycle ride fund raiser in the Katy/Fulshear areas. Fifteen operators are needed for communications for this event. Operators need at least a VHF mobile radio to volunteer. Talk-in and event will be on the 145.19 repeater with a 123.0 tone. Operators will meet at 5:30 am at the Jack-in-the-Box at Katy Mills Mall just south of Interstate 10 for maps, final instructions and tee shirts. Contact Mike Hardwick, N5VCX at 713-826-6917 or [n5vcx@att.net](mailto:n5vcx@att.net) for more information.

## Monday Night NET Updates

Don't forget the Monday Night Public Service Net starts at **8 pm**, 145.47 (PL -123.0). The order of check-ins start with mobile units first then fixed stations. If you have something for the net, make sure you let Net Control know about it when you check in. We are looking for Net Control Operators. Contact any officer of BVARC if you are interested. Here are recent check-ins with control-ops:

1/15 - 18 - Bill, ws5h	3/12 - 23 - Bill, ws5h	5/7 - 24 - Cam, k5cam
1/22 -22 - Pete, kd5qpx	3/19- 17 - Sid, n5zkd	5/14 - 33 - Bill, ws5h
1/29 - 18 - Doug, kc5vyz	3/26 - 21 - Cam, k5cam	5/21 - 14 - Sid, n5zkd
2/5 - 28 - Cam, k5cam	4/2 - 22 - Cam, k5cam	5/28 - 16 - Pete, kd5qpx
2/12 - 19 - Cam, k5cam	4/9 - 26 - Bill, ws5h	6/4 - 24 - Cam, k5cam
2/19 - 20 - Sid, n5zkd	4/16 17 - Bill, ws5h	6/11 - 33 - Bill, ws5h
2/26 - Pete, kd5qpx	4/23 - 26 - Pete, kd5qpx	6/18 - 24 - Sid, n5zkd
3/5 - 23 - Cam, k5cam	4/30 - 22 - Doug, kc5vyz	6/25 - 21 - Pete, kd5qpx

## THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

May/June, 2007 check-ins

3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00PM , Sam Wilson, N5CPA, Net Coordinator

05/02/07—K5JWM, N5CPA, K5CEK, KE5SR, K5LBU, KA5MEI, W5RJA, W5UHZ, KC5HFM, K5LKJ, KC5AWG, KE5NDB, N5RFT, WA5VRB, KC5FOG, KB5LKE, KB5ELT, WS5H, KE5CDE, KE5CFF, KD5YOU, W5TEM, KD7THJ, KD5GM, W5LWR, WB5EXI. (26 CHECK-INS)

05/09/07—N5CPA, KE5NDB, K5LKJ, K5LBU, W5UHZ, KJ5SS, KE5CDE, WS5H, W5TEM, W5RJA, K5ADA, W5RH, WA5VRB, KZ5I, KC5HFM, W5UFL, W5FZ, KC5HVP, K5HXY, K5CEK(t) (20 CHECK-INS)

05/16/07—N5CPA, WS5H, KJ5SS, WA5VRB, KE5CDE, KE5CFF, W5UHZ, K5LKJ, K5CEK(T), KE5NDB, KC5FOG, K5LBU, K5JON, AA5OA, W5RJA, KC5HFM, AD5ZM, W5TEM, W5LWR, WB5SRN, KC5HVP. (21 CHECK-INS)

05/23/07—N5CPA, N5RFT, KJ5SS, KC5HFM, KB5LKE, K5LKJ, KE5NDB, K5CEK(T), K5LBU, KB5SIT(T), AA5OA, W5UHZ, W5TEM, NT5SM, WS5H (15 CHECK-INS)

05/30/07—NO NET BECAUSE OF BAD WEATHER.

06/06/07—N5CPA, K5CEK, KJ5SS, AA5OA, K5LJ, K5LKJ, W5UHZ, K5LBU, KE5NDB, KB5LKE, WB5EXI, NM5K, K5HXY, WS5H. (14 CHECK-INS)

06/13/07—N5CPA, K5CEK, K5LBU, W5UHZ, WB5PNL, KJ5SS, KE5NDB, WA5VRB, K5LKJ, AA5OA, KC5HFM, WS5H. (12 CHECK-INS)

06/20/07-- N5CPA, K5LKJ, KJ5SS, K5LBU, K5CEK, KE5CDE, KE5CFF, KE5NDB, W5UHZ, AA5OA, W5RH, WB5HUF, N5KXF, WS5H. (14 CHECK-INS)

06/27/07 -N5CPA, K5CEK, KE5NDB, WS5H, KE5SR, KE5CDE, W5UHZ, WB5EXI, KK5UO, AD5ZM, KD5ZEL, K5LKJ, WB5PNL. (13 CHECK-INS)

**Sam Wilson, N5CPA**

---

---

# Minutes of June 7th, 2007 Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club:

Mike Hardwick called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:30 PM on June 7th, 2007 at Denny's Restaurant, 8199 SW Freeway; Houston, TX.

Attending were: Mike Hardwick, N5VCX (Pres.); Allen Brier, N5XZ (V P); Sid Sherwood, N5ZXD (Treas./Cor. Sec.); Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.); Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ (At-Large Dir.); Bill Stone, KS5H (At-Large Dir.); Rick Hiller, W5RH (At-Large Dir.); Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; Randy Pollard, AK5G; Claude Sessions Jr., K5HFY; and Dave Beers, AF5T.

- 1) Minutes for May 2007 meeting were approved as they appeared in the June 2007 newsletter.
- 2) Treasurer's Report was presented to and approved by the Board.
- 3) Old Business:
  - a) Hamfest:
    - i) Website design is still in progress
    - ii) Status as an ARRL convention is still pending
    - iii) Fairground deposit has not yet been made. Pollard will deliver deposit next week.
  - b) Filed Day:
    - i) Captains: Robert Polinski, Carl Warfield, and Leroy Sims Jr.
    - ii) Location: Richmond Fire Training Facility
    - iii) Classification: To Be Determined (TBD).
    - iv) Antennas: (TBD) The tri-band HF yagi that the club has used in the past will no longer be available. The board discussed the purchase of a yagi and coax. Because of the short time now available, Polinski and Brier will research possibilities and any resolution would come through emails.
    - v) The RG8 coax used by the club in past years is no longer available. Polinski will purchase coax and the club will purchase from him some portion for field day use.
    - vi) Budget: Set at \$300 by board vote.
  - c) General Meetings:
    - i) June:
      - (1) Location: Unocal building at 14141 SW Fwy
      - (2) Program: Steve Lee from the FCC
    - ii) July:
      - (1) Location: Sugar Land Community Center
      - (2) Program: TBD
    - iii) August:
      - (1) Location: Sugar Land Community Center
      - (2) Program: Ice Cream Social; **THE CLUB NEEDS SOMEONE TO STEP UP AND CHAIR THIS ACTIVITY.**
    - iv) September:
      - (1) Location: Sugar Land Community Center
      - (2) Program: TBD
    - v) October:
      - (1) Location: Sugar Land Community Center
      - (2) Program: TBD
    - vi) November:
      - (1) Location: Sugar Land Community Center
      - (2) Program: Chili Supper and Elections
    - vii) December:
      - (1) Location: Sugar Land Community Center
      - (2) Program: Home-brew equipment night
- 4) New business:
  - a) Treasurer's report in the newsletter: The board discussed the possible unintended consequences of having the treasurer's report appear in the newsletter. This is perceived by some as inappropriate because the newsletter is distributed to others beyond the club and published on the Internet. It was for that reason that the board voted to no longer publish that information in the newsletter but still have it available at the general meetings.
  - b) It was pointed out to the board that 56% of the member's yearly dues is devoted to publishing the newsletter. The club has 29 life members and 124 members.

- c)
  - d) The newsletter is currently being sent to members and several non-members as a method of publicizing the club. The board reviewed the list of non-members and several were removed.
  - e) Pollard informed the board that the widow of a silent key donated some low-value equipment. This will be auctioned off at the Ice Cream Social.
  - f) Stone has received new BVARC patches. These will be sold for \$5 each.
  - g) The end of August will be the shut-off for ordering BVARC caps and shirts. Order forms and moneys are to be sent to Sid Sherwood, N5ZXD.
  - h) Stone opened discussion regarding the Telpac station proposal by Alan, KB2WF that appeared in the June newsletter. No resolution resulted from topic's discussion.
  - i) Polinski announced that there will be a Field Day final meeting just before the event. This will not be a General Membership meeting but probably a Saturday meeting.
- 5) Other Business:
- a) Public Service Events: Katy Flatland, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007.
- 6) Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Submitted by Recording Secretary Peter Sauermilch-KD5QPX

---



**NEW & SURPLUS ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS**

**ELECTRONIC PARTS OUTLET**

*SURPLUS INVENTORIES PURCHASED*

3753 FONDREN ROAD  
HOUSTON, TX. 77063  
**713-784-0140**  
713-784-9740

www.epohouston.com Southwest Houston  
between Richmond & Westpark

---

## Addendum -- Improving CW Speed – Yet, another Freeware Program

**By Rick Hiller – W5RH**

Last month I told you about two free CW training packages, available for download. Well, as luck would have it, I found another called RufzXP – Tancredi, written by Mathias Kolpe, DL4MM and Alessandro Vitiello, IV3XYM.

As explained on their web site – "Rufz" is the abbreviation of the German word "Rufzeichen-Hören", meaning "Listening to Callsigns", which is exactly what the program forces you to do – listen to a call sign at a certain speed and then type it in. If you get it correct, it increases the sending speed by one word per minute and proceeds to send the next call sign. However, if you make an error, it lowers the speed by one word per minute and then sends the next call sign. The process repeats. Correct – up the speed, incorrect – lower the speed. It sends 50 call signs per session.

You can initialize it with a choice of language, sending speed, tone frequency and volume level. From there, it is just like I described above. You can keep track of your progress and compare to others around the world. Personally, I would rather not broadcast how horrible I am at call sign recognition, but you, hopefully, are better than I.

Download it at:

<http://www.rufzxp.net/>

Of course, there are many more programs out there for learning and improving your CW skills, but these, Rufz-XP and the two from last month -- Koch CW Trainer and Morse Runner, are the ones I find to be great (and fun) learning tools. By improving your CW speed handling, you'll be able to work more contacts. More Q's means more fun, and that's what it's all about.

Enjoy.

RESULTS OF THE June 12th  
BVARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION  
by: John Moore, KK5NU

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio License Examination session that was held on Tuesday, June 12, 2007 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Dennis Dietrich, W5DDD  
Jeffrey Fussell, KD5VGE  
Larry Jacobson, K5LJ  
John Moore, KK5NU  
George Ontko, KM5VP

Eight examination elements were administered during the evening to eight applicants. Six new Technician licenses were attained; and one General class upgrade, with the total number of elements passed being 7. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 87.5%.

Congratulations to the following who attained a license and/or passed an exam:

Enrique H. Banda, Jr.	- {KE5PCB}	- Technician
Tuan V. Dang	- {KE5PCC}	- Technician
Bruce D. Johnson	- {KE5PCD}	- Technician
Jon C. Lee	- {KE5PCE}	- Technician
Virginia T. Lee	- {KE5PCF}	- Technician
Thomas F. Shaw	- K5LOT	- General
Earl L. Williams	- {KE5PCG}	- Technician

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 .....

**(Continued from Page 1)**

**This year, a new contest logging program was in use, chosen because it would run under the Windows XP operating system instead of DOS that the prior logging program required.**

**We all owe a debt of thanks this year Captains, Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ, Leroy Sims, Jr., KE5CWO and Carl Warfield, KA5MEI for organizing Field Day 2007, and to all of the club members who came out to help, operate, cook, clean, or whatever else that was needed.**

**If weren't able to come out and join in the fun this year, be sure and make plans for next year.**

# B V A R C

## Cap, Shirt & Jacket Order Form

**Caps:**

One size fits all, white with Logo on front. \$10.00ea.

# of caps: \_\_\_\_\_

Extra lettering @ \$7.50 per line, R side, L side or Back

\_\_\_\_\_

**Shirts:**

#054P Hanes Stedman white Polo with pocket. \$20.00 ea.

3 color logo on left chest and full back.

Sizes XXL add \$2

Name and/ or call, \_\_\_\_\_ \$7.50/ line

**Jackets:**

Blue Nylon zip front – with Logo Sizes S, M, L & XL \$33.00ea.

Size XXL \$35.00

3XL \$39.00

4XL \$43.00

Name and call, \_\_\_\_\_ \$7.50

-----  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # (      ) \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to BVARC.

## 2007 Club Officers:

President:

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX  
[n5vcx@worldnet.att.net](mailto:n5vcx@worldnet.att.net)

Vice President:

Allen Brier, N5XZ  
[n5xz@arrl.net](mailto:n5xz@arrl.net)

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:

Sid Sherwood, N5ZKD  
[n5zkd@arrl.net](mailto:n5zkd@arrl.net)

Recording Secretary:

Pete Sauermilch  
[kd5qpx@arrl.net](mailto:kd5qpx@arrl.net)

One Year Board Member:

Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ  
[kd5yvq@earthlink.net](mailto:kd5yvq@earthlink.net)

Two Year Board Member:

Bill Stone, WS5H  
[dragntow@wt.net](mailto:dragntow@wt.net)

At Large Board Member

Rick Hiller, W5RH  
[rhiller@sdicgm.com](mailto:rhiller@sdicgm.com)

---

## Club Happenings:

---

### General Meeting

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

### Board of Directors Meeting

First Thursday of each month,  
Sugar Land Community Center,  
See the website.

### 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 7:30 p.m.  
Location announced in text of this edition.

### Rag Chew Net

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

### Public Service Net

Monday night on 145.47 (PL 123.0) at  
8:00 PM

## UPCOMING FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

**July** Presentation: Deed-restricted antennas; Vampire Electronics.

### **August**

Ice Cream Social

---

## Upcoming Hamfests

Hamfest info for the next few months. More information at:  
<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html#listing>

**14 Jul 2007**

### **Tidelands Amateur Radio Society**

Texas City, TX  
Doyle Convention Center

[2010 5th Avenue North](http://tidelands.org/)

<http://tidelands.org/>

**Talk-In:** 147.14/167.9; alt 442.025 (PL 103.5)

---

## BVARC EATING SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFASTS:

Otto's Bar-B-Que, 7:30 am, Fountains Shopping Center, SW Freeway.  
New York Coffee Shop, 7:30a.m., 9720 Hillcroft, in Houston.

### THIRD FRIDAY DINNERS:

Lafayette Cajun Seafood 281-564-1388

10829 W. Bellfort at Wilcrest

Houston 77099

### **July 19th, Thursday night.**

Come one, come all and enjoy the fine food and fellowship.

Thanks guys,

Claude..

K5HFY







Monthly Publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.  
Serving Amateur Radio for Southwest Houston and Fort Bend County  
Club Call sign – KK5W  
BVARC Website: <http://www.bvarc.org>  
Editor: John Chauvin, K5IZO, [k5izo@yahoo.com](mailto:k5izo@yahoo.com)  
Production Team: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, [k5cam@arrl.net](mailto:k5cam@arrl.net)  
Claude Sessions, K5HFY, [k5hfy@arrl.net](mailto:k5hfy@arrl.net)

**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 area. BVARC is a Non-Profit Corporation classified by IRS as 501-(c)-(3).

Today **BVARC** is truly a general interest amateur radio club with an impressive record of public service. The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) has recognized the club's commitment of service with the coveted status of Special Services Club. We are proud of our members who represent 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. Club meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Sugar Land Community Center, 226 Matlege Way. General membership dues are \$20.00 per year, with student dues \$10.00 per year, additional family members \$2.00 per member per year and life membership \$160.00.

**BVARC** also administers amateur radio license exams on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Houston Community College's Scarcella campus in Stafford. A Public Service Net is held each Monday at 8 p.m. on the 145.47 (minus offset, PL 123 tone) repeater & a rag chew net is held each Wednesday at 7 p.m. on 3910 KHz +/- 3 KHz.

To obtain information about joining **BVARC** or its activities, contact the club's "Elmer," Ross Lawler, W5HFF at 281-342-3340 or [w5hff@yahoo.com](mailto:w5hff@yahoo.com) or see the BVARC website: [www.bvarc.org](http://www.bvarc.org)

---

**VOLUME 31, ISSUE 7**

**JULY 2007**

**BRAZOS VALLEY  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
P.O. BOX 2997  
SUGAR LAND, TX 77487-2997  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**FIRST CLASS POSTAGE**

**BVARC Monthly Meeting – Thursday, July 12**

*If your mailing label is  
highlighted in color, it's time  
to renew your membership!*