



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2007

VOLUME 31 | ISSUE 11

BVARC NOVEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7:30 PM, Thursday, November 8, 2007.

ANNUAL CHILI SUPPER AND ELECTIONS

Bring your favorite "road kill" chili. Anyone can bring Wolf brand which many of us enjoy but let's see your homebrew chili. This event is always popular with spouses and families.

We will also be electing a President, Recording Secretary and a Director-at-Large. The nominating committee, headed by John Moore, KK5NU, will make at least one nomination for each position. Nominations will then be open from the floor. If you want the Nominating Committee to nominate you, contact John (e-mail @ rear of newsletter).

OCTOBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING REPORT

October's general membership meeting featured presentation was "How does the picture get from the field to your television?" The presenters were from KTRK TV, Channel 13 and included: Mike Armatta (N5APC), Leroy Adams (no call) and Andy Funk (KB7UV). Richard Goldy (KE5ICL) from KPRC, Channel 2 contributed from the audience. KTRK also brought their ENG (electronic news gathering) truck. We were all treated to an informative talk and then allowed to view and tour the truck which was parked in front of the community center



President's Corner

The end of year is around the corner and I am looking forward to it. The new year will mean the Greater Houston Hamfest is just a few weeks away and I cannot wait for it. The GHH is really taking off and it is expected that over 1200 people will attend this year. With the Hamfest now labeled the ARRL South Texas Convention, it will bring in more people and vendors from around the state. This year the Texas VHF-FM Society will have their winter general meeting and elections at the GHH for the first time. Hopefully we will attract more organizations to the hamfest as well as their members. Don't forget Coy Day, ARRL West Gulf Division director will be our guest speaker this year.

However, there are still a few things to wrap up for this year. Elections are just a few weeks away and we need to make sure we are there to vote in the new officers. If you feel that you would like to help with club functions, contact John Moore, KK5NU and let him know that you would like to step up. Don't forget, floor nominations can be done on election night. Positions that will be open are President, Recording Secretary and At-Large Director. Let John know if you are interested in running for office.

Also coming up are the votes for the club's awards. The club has three awards that require nominations from the membership – Order of the Key; The Dr. Bill Award; and the Loop and Zepp award. Please check the club's website for more information on the awards. We need your nomination by the December meeting so the awards can be ordered. Nominations needed to be written and submitted to the board of directors. E-mails are acceptable.

Of course the rest of the November meeting will be the chili supper which always brings out a large crowd. Let Robert Polanski know if you are going to bring chili for that night. In December we will have our home brew night which will have the best of the homebuilt equipment. We will also have a short program on CERT training and programs.

Last but not least, as a few of you already know, I have acquired a used TV new van similar to the ones seen around Houston. It has been stripped of all the electronics but does have the generator, roof air, and (the best part) a 54 foot telescopic pneumatic mast. Stayed tuned for what this van may turn into.

Hope to see everyone at the Chili supper and Elections in November.

73,
N5VCX



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BVARC GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST

March 1, 2008

The second largest hamfest in Texas.

Have you already volunteered to participate?

Contact John at k5izo@yahoo.com or Mike at n5vcx@worldnet.att.net

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

For any of these events, contact Mike Hardwick, 713-826-6917

MS150 Communications Meeting

November 3rd, 2007

10:30 am

La Grange

Communications coordinators meeting in LaGrange to plan and developed event communications for the 2008 MS150 ride. Location to be determined.

Novemberfest Bike Ride

Saturday, November 10th, 2007

8:00 am San Felipe (near Sealy), Texas

Fifteen operators are needed for this event. Everyone will meet at the Denny's on Fry road north of Interstate 10 at 4:30 am for maps, tee-shirts and final route information. Event and talk-in will be on the 444.075, tone 103.5 repeater. UHF Mobile radios are needed for this event.

HMSA CLASSICAL 25K AND FLEET FEET 25K RELAY

Sunday, November 11, 2007

<http://www.houstonmasters.org/hmsa25k.html>

Twelve operators are needed for this event in downtown Houston. Operators will be meeting at Denny's on Interstate 10 at 5:00 am for maps, tee-shirts and final instructions.

Event communications will be on 444.600 (plus offset, 71.9 tone)

Bike the Bend for Literacy

8:00 am November 18th, 2007

Richmond, Texas

<http://www.teamcure.org/bikethebend.htm>

<http://www.ftbendliteracy.org/showevent.asp?evid=120>

Twenty operators are needed for this event in Richmond, Texas. Operators will meet at Foster High School at 6:30 am for maps, tee shirts and event information.

Event and talk-in will be on the 444.075, tone 103.5 repeater. UHF Mobile radios are needed for this event.

20th Annual Sugar Land Lakes of Williams Ranch 30K

Sugar Land, Texas

Sunday, December 09, 2007 7:00 AM

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

Twenty operators are needed for this event in Sugar Land, Texas. Operators will meet at Denny's on Hwy 6 at 5:00 am for maps, tee shirts and event information.

Event and talk-in will be on the 145.470, minus offset, tone 123.0.

Houston Marathon
6:45 am Sunday, January 13, 2008
Downtown Houston

125 operators are needed for this event. Send me your information if you are interested in working this event and I will forward it to Carl Hacker.

BP MS150
Houston to Austin Bike Tour
Saturday and Sunday, April 12 and 13, 2008

Needing 150 of the best amateur radio operators from Texas to provide communications for the premier fund raising event for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.
Give me a call or sign up at www.houstonhams.org if you can work hard and provide the best communications for a great event.

RESULTS OF THE October 9th 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, October 9, 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

Two examination elements were administered during the evening to a single applicant. One upgrade to General class was attained, with the total number of elements passed being - 1. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 50%.

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

Sid Sherwood - N5ZKD - General

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.

Houston Amateur Radio Supply

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

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:

5/14 - 33 - Bill, ws5h	7/9 - 24 - Bill, ws5h	9/3 - 17 - Cam, k5cam
5/21 - 14 - Sid, n5zkd	7/16 - 16 - Sid, n5zkd	9/10 - 30 - Bill, ws5h
5/28 - 16 - Pete, kd5qpx	7/23 - 24 - Pete, kd5qpx	9/17 - 17 - Sid, n5zkd
6/4 - 24 - Cam, k5cam	7/30 - 27 - Doug, kc5vyz	9/24 - 25 - Pete, kd5qpx
6/11 - 33 - Bill, ws5h	8/6 - 26 - Cam, k5cam	10/1 - 23 - Cam, k5cam
6/18 - 24 - Sid, n5zkd	8/13 - 29 - Bill, ws5h	10/8 - 25 - Bill, ws5h
6/25 - 21 - Pete, kd5qpx	8/20 - 18 - Mike, n5vcx	10/17 - 28 - Bill, ws5h
7/2 - 18 - Cam, k5cam	8/27 - 27 - Pete, kd5qpx	10/22 - 26 - Pete, kd5qpx

BVARC 2007 ANNUAL PICNIC & CAMPOUT

Picnic: Saturday, November 10th, 2007

Time: 12:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Location: Coushatte Recreation Ranch

Website: www.coushatte.com

See website for driving instructions

Off State Hwy. 36 Between Sealy and Bellville

Entry fee for picnic: None

Food & beverage: bring your own

In the unlikely event that it rains, we retire to the meeting room.

Talk-In Frequency: 146.52

Sponsor: BVARC & Amateur Radio Campers

Campout: November 9, 10 & 11

Camping Fee: \$17.00 per night, 30 Amp, \$19.00 per night, 50 Amp

Sites have power, water and hookups.

Picnic Information: Call John Whiteman, K5LKJ, 281-530-0432

Thanks.

Regards,

John C. Whiteman

BVARC Historical Vignettes – Chili Cookoff / Chili Supper

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

For over fifteen years, the November BVARC elections have been associated with chili. The first time chili was served at a BVARC election night meeting was on November 8, 1990. However, the first chili event at a BVARC meeting was not at the election meeting, but at the March 9, 1989 general membership meeting. It was this event that paved the way for having an annual chili supper at later election meetings.

The speaker at the March 9, 1989 meeting was Hub Ratliff N5MXC who spoke about the Civil Air Patrol and their use of direction finding gear. The meeting was also billed as a “Chili Cookoff,” with the chili provided by “Uncle” Vic Richard N5NAS. Vic was well known for his skill at cooking meat at BVARC picnics where he took his portable grill / smoker and prepared delightful chicken, beef and sausage. The club had not yet had the opportunity to sample Vic’s chili. It was not really a “cookoff” because the only chili served was prepared by Vic. After the business portion of the meeting, club members went through the line to get a bowl of chili and sat down to hear Hub speak. The chili was fantastic, and everyone enjoyed the program. The B-VARC Bulletin described the meeting as a “resounding success.”

From the April 1989 (Vol. 12, Issue 4) B-VARC Bulletin, Irv Smith KB5EXM editor:

MARCH MEETING REPORT

The Chili Cookoff was a resounding success. Thanks to Vick (N5NAS) and Harold (ND5F) for coordinating it. An incomplete list of others bringing food or items includes Suzane (KB5BAY), Ralph (KB5DNT), Irv (KB5EXM), Herb (N5GZW), Susan (KB5ICO), Bill (N5KXU), Charles (KG5KV), Greg (K5LTW), Hub (N5MXC), and Lee (KA5JWB).

The following year, it was decided to have food at the election meeting, and since Vic’s chili was such a great success the year before, it was decided that the program for the November 1990 meeting would be called “Elections & Chili Con Carne”, with Vic cooking the chili. Vic actually cooked the chili at the Missouri City Fire Station for the November 1990 meeting.

From the December 1990 (Vol. 13, Issue 12) B-VARC Bulletin, Vincent Orlando WA5ETS editor:

ELECTION NIGHT

By Bill Todd-Brown

When we arrived at the Missouri City Fire Station, there was Uncle Vic, N5NAS, inside the fire station next to the fire trucks, wit his propane burner on high and his “oil tank with handles” bubbling out of the essence of dreams – good chili.

Speaking of “Thanks,” I’m probably going to leave someone out and be in trouble again, but here goes. Vic, N5NAS, supplied the chili, in its entirety, he purchased the meat (and ground it up by stomping it with his cleated shoes) – (but not to worry; he put down fresh newspapers to stomp it on), he cooked it, seasoned it and brought it. We suspect that Pat played more than a small role in it. Thanks, Vic; it was superb. (In fact it was so good that Harold, ND5F, and his wife went over to Vic’s house after the meeting to help dispose of what was left.)

The following two years, 1991 and 1992, the program at the November BVARC meeting was called “Election and Chili Cookoff.” Any member who wished could bring chili, and after tasting the various kinds of chili, members voted by secret written ballot for what they thought was the best chili. In that sense, it was a chili cookoff. In 1993, the November BVARC program was termed “Elections and Chili Feast,” and since that time the November program has been known as “Elections and Chili Supper.” Now you know how the tradition of having chili at BVARC elections started.

UPCOMING FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

November - Annual Chili Supper & Annual Elections

December - Homebrew night

January - Annual banquet

February – TBD

March - Discovering Amateur Radio Night (& New Ham Night)

April - A selection of short technical discussions and functional applications on antennas

THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

September 2007 check-ins

3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00pm, John Whiteman, K5LKJ, Net Coordinator

08/2/07 —K5LKJ, K5CEK, K5HFY, KC5HFM, KJ5SS, WA5FMK, K5LJ, KE5NDB, AA5OA, KE5MQP, K5LBU, N5CPA, KC5JAR, W5UHZ, WB5PNL, WS5H, W5JSU, WB5EXI, WA5VRB, AF5T, K5ADA, KE5GWO, WA5FMK, K5LOT, W5RH, K5JWM, KE5CDE, KZ5I, K5SEE,
(16 CHECK-INS) (LIST) .

08/29/07—K5LKJ, KC5HFM, KJ5SS, KE5SR, K5CEK, N5CPA, K5LBU, W5RH, KE5NDB, WA5CYI, K5LJ, WB5PNL, W5UHZ, WS5H, N5VCI, AF5T. (16 CHECK-INS)

09/26/07—K5LKJ, WA5FMK, W5DWI, WA5CYI, W5UHZ, KE5SR, K5CEK, K5JWM, N5CPA, KE5NDB, W5RH, KB5SIT, WB5PNL, NG1H, K5LJ, WB5EXI, N5VCX, K5LBU, KC5JAR.
(19CHECK-INS)

10/03/07—K5LKJ, K5CEK, KE5SR, W5UHZ, K5JWM, KC5HFM, K5UAO, KB5SIT, K5LJ, N5TGM, K5LBU, KE5NDB, WS5H, WB5PNL, WA5CYI, AF5T, W5RH, N5CPA, N5FOG. (19CHECK-INS)

10/10/07—K5LKJ, K5CEK, WS5H, KE5SR, WA5FMK, N5CPA, W5UHZ, K5LJ, KE5NDB, WB5PNL, W5RH, N5VCI, KC5JAR.
(13CHECK-INS)

10/17/07 —K5LKJ, KJ5SS, KE5SR, K5CEK, KE5NDB, W5UHZ, N5CPA, K5LJ, WS5H, N5FOG, K5ADA, KD7THJ, WB5PNL, KZ5I, AF5T, K5LBU, WA5FMK, KC5JAR, N5PSL. (19 CHECK-INS) (LIST) .

Regards,
John C. Whiteman



Photo of chili cooking. Got the hint?

Minutes of October 4th, 2007 Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club:

- 1) Mike Hardwick called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:37 PM on October 4th, 2007 at Otto's Restaurant, 11222 Fountain Lake Dr, Stafford TX. Attending were: Mike Hardwick, N5VCX (Pres.); Sid Sherwood, N5ZXD (Treas./Cor. Sec.); Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.); Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ (At-Large Dir.); Bill Stone, WS5H (At-Large Dir.); Norma Stone, KE5NDN; Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; Charles Frost, K5LBU; John Chauvin, K5IZO; Claude Sessions, K5HFY; Dave Beers, AF5T.
- 2) Minutes for September 2007 meeting were approved as they appear in the for October 2007 newsletter.
- 3) Treasurer's Report was presented to and approved by the Board.
- 4) Old Business:
 - a) Hamfest:
 - i) Status: No vendors have preregistered.
 - ii) Next Meeting: 3rd Thursday of November (11/15/07).
 - b) General Meetings:
 - i) October: Original program became unavailable and KTRK is presenting electronic news gathering.
 - ii) November:
 - (1) Chili Supper: Robert Polinski coordinating
 - (2) Elections:
 - (a) 2 Year Director: Formerly Polinski, Arnold Knoch has agreed to stand for election.
 - (b) Recording Secretary: Formerly Sauermilch, Pete Sauermilch has agreed to stand for election.
 - (c) President: Formerly Hardwick, no one has come forward to stand for election.
 - iii) December: Homebrew Night:
 - (1) Alan Brier will present a DX program.
 - (2) Michael Kahlenberg of Ft. Bend Office of Emergency Management will present a short CERT program.
 - iv) January:
 - (1) BoD: Meeting on January 3rd
 - (2) Banquet: January 11th, Salt Grass Steakhouse, SW Freeway; 6PM drinking, 7PM Eating.
 - v) February: To Be Determined
 - vi) March: New Ham Month (Discovering Amateur Radio), Bill Stone coordinating
 - 5) New business:
 - a) 2008 meeting dates: All meeting dates have been confirmed with the City of Sugar Land Parks and Recreation for the Community Center except for February. Request has been made for an alternate space but unconfirmed at BoD meeting date.
 - b) BoD meeting time change: Request made to move time to 7:00 PM, discussed but no action taken.
 - c) License Classes: Still "off-line" because one instructor is out of town.
 - d) General Meeting Programs:
 - i) Programs are needed for March, April, May, July, September, October.
 - ii) Current standing programs are in January, February, June, August, November, and December.
 - iii) Club needs more hands-on type programs
 - iv) Club needs more programs displaying equipment
 - e) Request for someone to manage a digital system in Sugar Land area
 - i) Equipment to be donated to club.
 - ii) Club can pick digital format.
 - 6) Other Business:
 - a) Public Service events
 - i) Bike Around the Bay: Oct.20th and 21st
 - ii) Novemberfest, November 10th
 - b) Claude Sessions was authorized by the board to advertise BVARC General Meetings in any free media that he discovers.
 - 7) Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary Peter Sauermilch-KD5QPX

2006 Club Officers:

President:

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
n5vcx@worldnet.att.net

Vice President:

Allen Brier, N5XZ
n5xz@ar1.net

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:

Sid Sherwood, N5ZKD
n5zkd@ar1.net

Recording Secretary:

Pete Sauermilch
kd5qpx@ar1.net

One Year Board Member:

Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ
polinski@swbell.net

Two Year Board Member:

Bill Stone, WS5H
dragntow@wt.net

At Large Board Member

Rick Hiller, W5RH
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
jwm@hal-pc.org

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

BVARC EATING SCHEDULE

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFASTS:

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

THIRD FRIDAY DINNER: October 19, 2007, 7:30p.m.

THE HICKORY BARN BARBECUE, 11534 Wilcrest, in Houston

Upcoming Hamfests

(within 200 miles of Houston)

Hamfest info for the next few months. More information at:

<http://www.ar1.org/hamfests.html#listing>

Ninth Annual Coastal Bend Hamfest

10 Nov 2007

South Texas Amateur Radio Club

Hilltop Community Center, [11423 Leopard Street](#), Corpus Christi, TX

Talk-In: 146.82 -600 (PL 107.2)

<http://www.n5crp.org>

Austin Radio RoundUp

7-8 Dec 2007

Austin Amateur Radio Club

Sons of Hermann Mixed Lodge #120

[9611 Decker Lake Road](#), Austin, TX

Talk-In: 146.94(-) no PL

<http://www.AustinHams.org>

San Antonio 2008 Amateur Radio Fiesta

12 Jan 2008

San Antonio Radio Club

Schertz Knights of Columbus Hall

[509 Schertz Parkway](#), Schertz, TX

Talk-In: 145.390 (-) (PL 100.0)

<http://w5sc.org/swapfest.htm>

Annual Swapfest

16 Feb 2008

Bastrop County Amateur Radio Club

Riverbend Park Pavillion

[Highway 71](#), Smithville, TX

Talk-In: 145.350 (PL 114.8) or 443.750 (PL 114.8)

BVARC Greater Houston Hamfest

1 March 2008

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds, Hwy 36, Rosenberg, TX

Talk-In: 146.94, -600, (PL 167.9)

www.houstonhamfest.org



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
Production Team: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, k5cam@arrl.net
Claude Sessions, K5HFY, 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 or see the BVARC website: www.bvarc.org

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NOVEMBER 2007

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

**BVARC monthly general membership meeting, Thursday, November 8, 2007 -
Annual Chili Supper and Annual Elections**

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