



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

JANUARY 2008

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 1

## BVARC ANNUAL BANQUET & AWARDS NIGHT

Friday, January 11, 2008

Saltgrass Steak House – US 59, Southbound Access Road, South of Gessner

6PM – Drinks & Socializing      7PM – Dinner and Presentations

You may order from the recommended banquet menu or the regular restaurant menu.

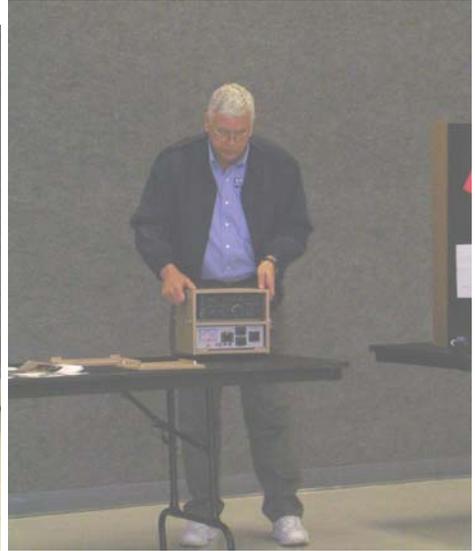
## DECEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING REPORT

The December meeting featured the traditional “Homebrew Night.” See the photos on this and the next page. Due to illness, the presentation on CERT will now be given in February.



**A Christmas Tree for the BVARC December meeting provided by and constructed by Bill and Norma Stone**

Here is a collage of pics from Homebrew Night:



## President's Message

Well it is time for me to put a few words on paper before John gets upset with me. Here I set at 10am on Christmas morning trying to put some word on paper or the computer that is. I also have the radio on 20 meters trying to hear the 3Y0 station on 14.250 but some W4 is calling cq right on top of the frequency. That is life in Ham Radio

First of all I want to wish everyone a happy and great **New Year** and that you had a verry good **Christmas Holiday** with your family and friends. Did Santa bring you a new rig, antenna or a new country or grid square? Santa brought me a new country.

I would like to thank all of you that voted to put me in office as the next president of BVARC. I will try to keep up the he good work done by Mike. Mike will still be the person responsible for keeping us up to date on his favorite subject and that is the bike rides and runs. Keep up the good job Mike.

Time is fast moving toward the Hamfest in March and I am looking toward having a great time that Saturday. I will be using a trailer with a 50+ foot tower with a good beam on top to demo ham radio. Yes John and Al, there will be time for you to do some of that weird stuff called CW. Who knows there could be some time to do some PSK and RTTY also.

Now some requests: Is there someone out there in BVARC that would do a column on say PSK and what is going on there how about something on CW or 6 meters? Anyone work DX or chase DX want to do a column on it?

How about more support for the schools around such as Pecan Grove that have plans to talk to the Space Station? They could use some help I am sure. Since my station is down at Olle for now, I hope to be able to get my principal to let me put up at least a vertical in time to work the School Club round up in Feb.

Any of you guys that have any ties to a school get to work on getting the ok to set up a station for the SCR? It is a great way to show teachers and parents what ham radio is all about. I have info on how it fits into the school curriculum. The best thing is showing how it is a part of the wireless communications that we all know. Do a Google for SCR or School club round up.

This is a week long activity and there are lots of schools around the country that get on the air. The students get to talk to other students and ask them questions. If nothing else get on from home and work the students and their schools. Most of it is done on 20 meters SSB but some also use PSK.

CU in the pileups and at the Banquet.

Frosty  
K5LBU

### 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

# Gain Antennas --The 80% Solution

by

## Larry Jacobson -- K5LJ

### **PART 1**

We are at the bottom of the current solar cycle, which means poor propagation and low activity on the higher HF bands. But, we can look forward to the improving band conditions over the next several years.

Now is the time to start building antennas for the higher HF bands to take advantage of those improving conditions. For many, however, big beams are out of the question because of space restriction, deed limitations, aesthetic consideration, or simply cost. Fortunately, some fairly simple antenna designs offer compact size, decent gain, and low cost. As a matter of fact, small beams will invariably offer the best bang for the buck, illustrating the famous “80% solution” scenario -- achieving 80% of a goal can usually be obtained at low cost, but the acquiring the remaining 20% may be very dear. In this article, I will describe some antenna designs that I have investigated – two of which I actually built and used.

### **PHILOSOPHY 101**

Antenna design is always a struggle to achieve the right combination of generally conflicting, performance parameters. In the good old days, a lot of cut and try was the order of the day. Today, we have some fairly sophisticated modeling software (and the computers to run it). I use EZNEC+. With such programs, many design trade-offs can be investigated before any metal is cut. Still, the antenna configuration and dimensions are the only variables we can adjust to achieve that super antenna!

Comparison of antennas is difficult because some designs are inherently better for a particular application. You would never use (or try to optimize) a beam for local ragchewing on 80M. Still, the best way to compare antennas designed for a particular application is to express their gain in ‘free space’, in dbi – decibels relative to an isotropic radiator. The isotropic radiator is an antenna that radiates equally well in all directions, but does not exist – it is a mathematical construct. ‘Free space’ is used because ground reflection enhancement can be substantial and is very dependent on the actual ground conductivity. Free space gain allows us to compare performance parameters between different designs during our design effort. Sometimes investigators will use the dipole in free space as the baseline – a dipole has a broadside gain of 2.15dbi. A design caveat exists in that modeling allows us to design an antenna with a certain performance, but most of us have no way of determining if the antenna that we build achieves the predicted performance. We are left with trying it out and seeing if it works.

My personal objectives in designing the antennas I have used were simplicity, multi-band operation, decent performance, low cost, and unobtrusive appearance. Certainly, all the antennas I will discuss below meet this standard. I will start, however, by discussing a simple vertical loop, which is not a beam in the accepted sense of the word. Furthermore, I started out with the objective of building these antennas for use on 20M and above. All designs can be scaled down if the minimum desired operating frequency is higher than 14MHz.

### **A VERTICAL LOOP**

A simple vertical loop can out-perform a dipole with only a modest increase in structural complexity. One configuration is a triangle – often called a delta. A square or rectangular shape may also be used. Resonant loops ( $1 \lambda$  total circumference) have a feed point impedance above 100 ohms, which means they will require a matching network (ie. 2:1 transformer) for 50-ohm coax, or ladder line and a tuner. Figure 1 shows two configurations: a) is the simplest to construct, while b) has a lower angle of radiation (important for working DX) since the high current portion of the loop is higher up. The radiation pattern is a fat figure 8 – quite similar to that of a dipole.

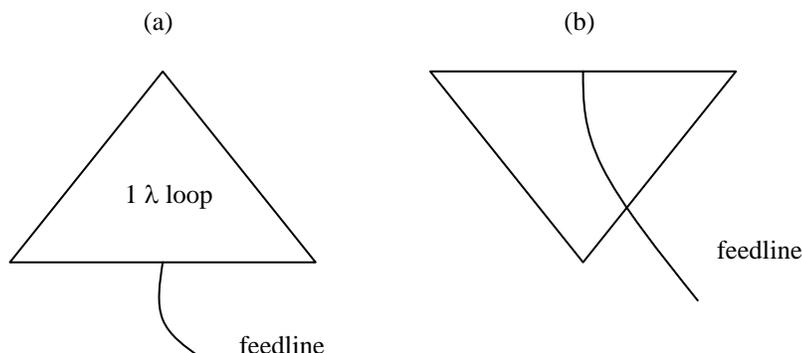


Figure 1

Since loops are usually one wavelength long, they will have a slight gain advantage over a simple dipole of 1db. Moreover, they will have a horizontal span less than a dipole. If fed with ladderline, they can operate across multiple bands, i.e. a 20M loop will work fine on 20M, 17M, and 15M. On 15M it is 1.33 wavelengths long and has a gain over a dipole of ~2db. A 20M loop has a rather strange radiation pattern on 12M and 10M, so use on these bands is not recommended. A decent compromise that works well from 20M thru 10M is to use a 17M loop, i.e. a full wavelength on 17M (~54 feet total loop circumference). The loop is a bit short on 20M, but still has gain over a dipole (~.75bd), and it functions well on 10M with a gain of 2 db over a  $.5\lambda$  dipole.

I constructed a 17M loop (along the lines of Figure 1a ) using various sizes of PVC pipe configured in the form of a cross. The horizontal portion of the loop was 24' above ground and the peak was at approximately 38'. The mid-point of the lower vertical PVC pipe was secured to the edge of the roof using a slip ring – this way I could rotate (by hand) the antenna to be broadside to any desired direction. I used this antenna for many years in the mid '90's with considerable success.

### SUPER GAIN BEAMS

This term has been coined (I guess) to describe beams with greater gain than would be achieved with a classic yagi configuration on an identical length boom. Common examples are the Moxon Rectangle, the W8JK phased array, and log periodics. All have short inter-element spacing ( $\sim .1\lambda$ ) and tight current coupling and phase control between the elements. The 'super' part is a bit of an exaggeration since, in the end, these antenna designs will only have about the same gain as an "optimized" yagi with the same number of elements, but they will do it with a much more compact configuration. I will here discuss only the Moxon Rectangle, which I have not actually used, and the W8JK, which I have used.

### MOXON RECTANGLE

This beam antenna was developed by Les Moxon, G6XN, sk (see his book: "HF Antennas for All Locations" available from ARRL) and is a parasitic array with a driven element and a reflector spaced  $.1\lambda$  apart. What makes the Moxon Rectangle really different from a standard short-spaced yagi is that the ends of both elements are folded back towards each other so that the ends are separated by only small gap. See Figure 2. This provides the tight coupling necessary to achieve the high gain of this compact arrangement. On 20M we now have a 2 element beam with only a ~28' span and an 8' boom yet the gain exceeds 6dbi in free space – this is about 4 db better than a dipole and equivalent to a wide spaced ( $>.2\lambda$ ) 2 element yagi with an element span of 34'. The beam also has a modest F/B ratio of 10-15db. Modeling shows that rectangles for other higher frequency bands can be nested within the lowest frequency one and fed with a common coaxial feed line. Some tweaking of the dimensions may be required to compensate for the interactions of nested rectangles, however.

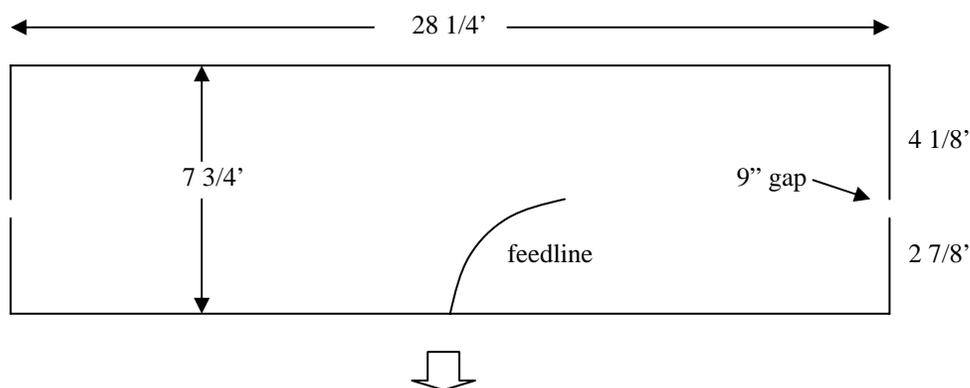


Figure 2. 20M Moxon rectangle

**PART 2 of "Gain Antennas – The 80% Solution" will appear in the February issue**

## NEWSLETTER SURVEY UPDATE

Mike H. is working on an internet input form to reach those that were not around to fill out the hard copy surveys. Those paper surveys that you already filled out are on hand and will be included in the data analysis. We hope to have this survey on-line in the next few weeks.



## BVARC Historical Vignettes – B-VARC or BVARC Revisited

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

Some of you may remember the controversy about the club changing its acronym from B-VARC to BVARC several years ago in 2004. Various stories circulated about how the hyphen appeared in B-VARC. One version of how the acronym B-VARC developed, as told to me years ago by a number of the early members, was that it had to do with the pronunciation of B-VARC. Without the hyphen, people would pronounce it “buhvarc” instead of “beevarc”, and I was told that the Board of Directors voted to put the hyphen into the name of the club so that it would be pronounced “beevarc”. The newsletters now available to me from the early days of the club tell a somewhat different story.

The first newsletter of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (Vol. 1, No. 1) was published in March 1978, and it referred to the club as BVARC. In fact, all of the newsletters available to me from 1978 through February 1980 use the acronym BVARC. For example, in the February 1980 newsletter, vice president Dale Williams WD5AJC referred to the club as B.V.A.R.C., INC. There were no newsletters published from March through July 1980, and in August 1980 Stu Lamkin WB5IGG assumed the position of newsletter editor. Stu wrote a rather strong editorial in his first newsletter.

From August 1980 newsletter (Vol. 3, No. 2 (we think!), Stu Lamkin WB5IGG editor):

### SURPRISE! SURPRISE! SURPRISE!

Ever since the Club started we've agreed it would be beneficial to have a monthly news publication to keep us informed about Club activities, and especially absentee members about Club happenings and plans. Efforts to produce such a publication have been consistently thwarted by the non-receipt of such information from Club members.

From now on, there'll be a mailing every month to all members – if only a dime (formerly penny!) postcard meeting notice; but we'll promise that with cooperative help on reproduction at no charge to the Club, there'll be a Bulletin every month mailed before the meeting.

Incidentally, the name of this publication is one of our own fabrication without any collaboration or appropriation by anyone. If you don't like or have a better one to offer, let us have your suggestion and we'll consider changing the name. Until then, it'll be the B-VARC BULLETIN.

Thus it appears that newsletter editor Stu Lamkin WB5IGG introduced the hyphen into B-VARC. It is likely that the pronunciation explanation given to me by some of the early club members was Stu's reason for putting the hyphen in B-VARC. The naming of the club's newsletter as the B-VARC BULLETIN apparently lead to also using B-VARC for the club acronym.

From time to time there has been a story circulating among BVARC members that early club newsletters did not put a hyphen in B-VARC because the early personal computers used a dash as a control character and not a punctuation mark. The early newsletters, including the August 1980 newsletter where Stu Lamkin introduced the hyphen into BVARC, were all manually produced on typewriters. Erasures and strikeovers in these newsletters are visible proof of the use of a type writer and not word processing software. Thus the computer dash story is what I would term an urban legend.

At any rate, when the BVARC Board of Directors made the decision to remove the hyphen from B-VARC in early 2004, the original acronym of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club was restored to what the club founders had started with.

---

## “WARC Band Antennas and HF Antenna System Basics” Presentation

If you are interested in hearing an hour long talk about HF antenna systems by Rick Hiller – W5RH, plan to attend, at either of two venues:

January 12<sup>th</sup> Saturday – Houston QRP Group – 9AM Red Cross Building

January 14<sup>th</sup> Monday – Houston Echo Society Ham Radio Club – 7AM Red Cross Building

Contact Rick – W5RH for detail or directions at [rhiller@sdicgm.com](mailto:rhiller@sdicgm.com)

**EPO** THE ELECTRONIC SOURCE

**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

---

## Austin Elementary School ARISS Contact Application Update by Allen Mattis N5AFV

We now have an update on the scheduling of an ARISS amateur radio contact between Austin Elementary School in Pecan Grove and the International Space Station. Scott McKee, NT5SM, the amateur radio contact coordinator between Austin Elementary School and ARISS received word from ARISS project engineer Ken Ransom, N5VHO, that 43 schools are now on the waiting list, and Austin Elementary School is #3 on the list for the U.S. region.

Ransom stated there is a slight chance some U.S. schools could be scheduled in April-May 2008, but that the next solid chance would be in late 2008. ARISS tries to schedule one school per week, but in reality the average is closer to 0.7 schools per week. No contacts are scheduled for approximately three weeks after a crew handover (handovers are roughly every 6 months), during the week of an EVA (extra-vehicular activity), during a shuttle docking, or during heavy work loads. The increased crew activity associated with recent expansion of the ISS has also resulted in a decrease in the number of ARISS contacts with schools. The typical waiting time for a contact is one to two years, and the average is about 1 ½ years.

In order to schedule an ARISS school contact it is necessary that three things occur at the same time. The students must be available, the ISS crew must be available, and the ISS must pass over the amateur radio ground station. About 2 to 3 months prior to an ARISS contact an ARISS mentor is usually assigned to a school. Potential ISS pass times are provided about 1 month before the contact, and the final contact time is selected by NASA schedulers about 1 week prior to the actual event.

Many BVARC members and other amateur radio operators came forward and volunteered to help with this worthwhile project. We are now in a period where we have to wait until the contact is scheduled. There may be a wait of a year or more, but once the contact is scheduled the clock starts running, and help from the amateur radio community will be needed.

It takes a number of different amateur radio groups working together to provide the necessary support for an ARISS contact to be successful. Both BVARC and Houston area AMSAT members are needed to provide the amateur radio expertise and support necessary for the ARISS contact. ARISS is sponsored by the ARRL, AMSAT and NASA. The fact that BVARC is an ARRL-affiliated Special Service Club makes BVARC an ideal participant for this project. As further information about the proposed ARISS contact becomes available it will appear in the BVARC Bulletin.

---

## PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

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

---

### 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](http://www.houstonhams.org) if you can work hard and provide the best communications for a great event.

---



Antenna party @ Allen's, N5XZ



Ross, W5HFF, climbing his tower

---

## AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE CLASSES

Ross Lawler, W5HFF, and John Chauvin, K5IZO, will resume classes beginning the end of January. The first class will be for the Technician Class. It will consist of 3 Saturday morning sessions, 2 hours in duration. Date, time and location are TBD, but it will be timed to end shortly before the BVARC Greater Houston Hamfest testing session on March 1. Contact Ross or John at [w5hff@yahoo.com](mailto:w5hff@yahoo.com) or [k5izo@yahoo.com](mailto:k5izo@yahoo.com) respective for details.

## Minutes of December 6<sup>th</sup>, 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 7:36 PM on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at Otto's Barbecue, 11222 Fountain Lake Dr, Stafford, TX. Attending were: Mike Hardwick, N5VCX (Pres.); Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.); Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ (At-Large Dir.); Bill Stone, WS5H (At-Large Dir.); Rick Hiller, W5RH (At-Large Dir.); Norma Stone, KE5NDN; Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; Charles Frost, K5LBU; Pete Norris, KJ5SS; Steve Agee, N5ZUA; David Barber, KE5NDB, and Arnold Knoche, K5ADA

- 1) Minutes for the November 2007 meeting were approved as they appear in the November 2007 newsletter.
- 2) Treasurer's Report was not presented.
- 3) Old Business:
  - a) Hamfest:
    - i) Otto's Barbecue will be the food vendor.
    - ii) New flyer will be in the February QST.
    - iii) Pete Norris is the new contact person.
    - iv) Next organizational meeting will be January 17<sup>th</sup> (third Thursday).
  - b) December General Membership Meeting:
    - i) CERT, Michael Kalenberg of the Fort Bend Office of Emergency Management.
    - ii) Home-Brew Night.
  - c) January BoD meeting will be on January 3rd.
  - d) Banquet will be on January 11th at the Salt Grass Steak House, Southwest Freeway.
  - e) Annual club awards: Only one suggestion submitted.
  - f) February 14th General Membership Meeting: Old Unical building, 14141 Southwest Freeway, Sugar Land; East side of the Southwest Freeway between William's Trace and Sugar Creek intersections.
  - g) March 13th General Membership Meeting: New Ham Night, Bill Stone coordinator.
  - h) April 10th General Membership Meeting: Mini-Antenna symposium, Rick Hiller coordinator.
- 4) New business:
  - a) Doug Woodruff's funeral is on Friday, 12/17/20087.
  - b) All BVARC General Membership meeting dates except February are confirmed with the Sugar Land Parks and Recreation Department.
  - c) Allen Brier plans to resign at the end of December, 2007. Rick Hiller has agreed to serve out the VP's term.
  - d) David Barber requests the use of the club call KK5W. Application submitted to Pete Sauermilch to forward to Sid Sherwood.
  - e) Bill Stone requests the use of the club call W5DPA. Application submitted to Pete Sauermilch to forward to Sid Sherwood.
  - f) Norma Stone has volunteered to act as the QSL manager for activities resulting from 10/10 activities regarding the KK5W and W5DPA calls.
- 5) Meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary Peter Sauermilch-KD5QPX

---

## 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:

7/16 - 16 - Sid, n5zkd	9/10 - 30 - Bill, ws5h	11/5 - 23 - Cam, k5cam
7/23 - 24 - Pete, kd5qpx	9/17 - 17 - Sid, n5zkd	11/12 - 26 - Bill, wsfh
7/30 - 27 - Doug, kc5vyz	9/24 - 25 - Pete, kd5qpx	11/19 - 20 - Sid, n5zkd
8/6 - 26 - Cam, k5cam	10/1 - 23 - Cam, k5cam	11/26 - 16 - Pete, kd5qpx
8/13 - 29 - Bill, ws5h	10/8 - 25 - Bill, ws5h	12/3 - 26 - Cam, k5cam
8/20 - 18 - Mike, n5vcx	10/15 - 28 - Bill, ws5h	12/10 - 27 - Bill, ws5h
8/27 - 27 - Pete, kd5qpx	10/22 - 26 - Pete, kd5qpx	12/17 - Marni, ke5msd
9/3 - 17 - Cam, k5cam	10/29 - 23 - Doug, kc5vyz	12/24 - no net

## 2007 Club Officers:

President:

Charles "Frosty" Frost, K5LBU  
[frosty1@pdq.net](mailto:frosty1@pdq.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)

Two Year Board Member:

Arnold Knoche  
[jakadaok@aol.com](mailto:jakadaok@aol.com)

Two Year Board Member:

Bill Stone, W5SH  
[dragntow@wt.net](mailto:dragntow@wt.net)

At Large Board Member

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

---

## 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](mailto: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, 7:30a.m., Fountains Shopping Center, SW Frwy.  
New York Coffee Shop, 7:30a.m., 9720 Hillcroft, in Houston.

THIRD FRIDAY DINNER: Because of the banquet, there will be no third  
Friday dinner in January.

---

## UPCOMING FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

January - Annual banquet

February - CERT

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

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

---

## Upcoming Hamfests

(within 200 miles of Houston)

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

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

### 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)

### Orange ARC & Jefferson County ARC

23 Feb 2008

VFW Hall  
[Highway 87 North](#), Orange, TX

**Talk-In:** 147.180 (no tone)

<http://www.qsl.net/w5nd>

### 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](http://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](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 32, ISSUE 1**

**JANUARY 2008**

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

**FIRST CLASS POSTAGE**

**BVARC Annual Banquet and Awards Night – Friday, Jan. 11, 2008.**

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