



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

OCTOBER 2009

VOLUME 33 ISSUE 10

October General Membership Meeting

Submitted by Rick Hiller, W5RH

Our October meeting will be held on October 8th, the second Thursday, at the Sugar Land Community Center (our normal meeting place). We invite you to attend, meet our members and listen to announcements of club activities, like October's Boy Scout Jamboree On The Air. The main presentation will be Mr. Steve Lee of the FCC's Houston office talking about local enforcement, the equipment utilized and some of the experiences that he has had. Let's show Steve a well attended and interested turn out.



September General Membership Meeting

Submitted by Rick Hiller, W5RH

Our September meeting was held at the Fort Bend County Library in Sugar Land. A fair turn out of members, new members and visitors, for a rainy night and venue change. The speaker was Jeff Hoke of Centerpoint Energy. Jeff gave us an excellent review of his capacity to chase down power line generated RFI problems. If you happen to have RFI problems, please contact Jeff at the Radio Communications Department, Center Point Energy, primary phone # 713-945-6697, cell phone # 713-304-2728.



President's Report

Greetings to fellow BVARC members.

I think that the chairman of the Greater Houston Hamfest and his number one person would like to request everyone's support for the up coming hamfest in March. The date for the hamfest is 6 March 2010.

I know that there will be lots of support from everyone just like there was last year. The date will be here before you know it. These things just have a way of slipping up on us.

The Following hamfest are going to happen on the following dates:

1. Belton 3 Oct.
2. Paris, TX 9-10 Oct.
3. Corpus Christi 14 Nov.
4. San Antonio 23 Jan 2010
5. GHH-BVARC 6 March 2010

I will be going to Belton, and San Antonio and might make it to CC in Nov. Time will tell. Which ones will you be going to?

DX going on's:

As Allen ask have you worked FT5GA yet???? I was able to work them Sunday 20 Oct. on 20 meters SSB. There are several DXpeditions on the air now and a few coming up in Oct and Nov.

Conway Reef- 3D20CR
South Georgia – VP8DIF
Niue – ZL2DL
Midway island –K4M
Benin – TY1MS
Maldives- 8Q7AK
Marquesas island TX5SPM

Then there will be lots on from all over the place starting on the week before the next big contest which is CQWWSSB. This is a good contest for everyone to give a try in, with even 100 watts and a fair antenna you can work a lot of DX. The reason for this is it is a work anyone anywhere type of contest so every contact counts. Even the big contest stations want to get you in the log for that reason. So at 0000Z which is 1800 local time here in Houston on the 24th of Oct get on the air and give it a go. If any want to come over to my home and work the contest with me come on over. Or if you would like to come over and just use your call that would be ok also. Now question is are there any that would like to do a multi single station with the club call we can do that. A multi single is where there are multi operators taking turns at the station which is a single rig.

Now it is time to start thinking about the awards that BVARC gives each year at our banquet. The date and location has been set so put on your thinking caps and give your nominee to someone on the board. It would be nice to do this by the November meeting.

Well enough of my rambling so C U on the bands and at the meeting.

73
FROSTY
K5LBU



Texas QSO Party – Saturday & Sunday, September 26 & 27

The Texas QSO Party takes place on Sept. 26 & 27. Hopefully this issue of the newsletter reaches you before those dates. BVARC is making a significant attempt to participate. This event was the subject of the featured presentation at the July BVARC General Membership Meeting and BVARC is sponsoring some of the awards plaques. Some members are going mobile and activating many counties. Others are going to destinations around Texas to activate other counties. Whether you go mobile, travel or stay home - participate! All participants worldwide need to make QSOs with as many hams in Texas as possible. If you are homebased, get on the air, and have fun. Details are on the TQP website at:

www.txqp.net

BVARC Historical Vignettes – Houston Economic Summit Special Event Station

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

During the period of July 7-12, 1990, Houston hosted an economic summit of the major democratic nations of the world. It was a momentous occasion, and at the end of the conference President George H. W. Bush (#41) stated “My colleagues from France, and the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, Italy, Japan and the European Communities and I have just completed this 16th meeting of the leaders of the largest industrialized democracies. This, the first Economic Summit of the post[-cold-]war period, celebrates the resurgence of democracy and free markets around the world.” BVARC and the other amateur radio organizations in Houston played a role in celebrating this historic event.

In March, 1990, a number of BVARC members discussed having a special event station to commemorate the upcoming Economic Summit. The idea quickly caught on, and the University of Texas M D Anderson Cancer Center offered use of its KK5W club station for this event. Because of the scope of the operation all amateur radio clubs in the Houston area were asked to participate.

In April, 1990, the special event station committee appealed to Senator Barry Goldwater for his help in getting the special event call sign W90ES for use during the event. The request was subsequently approved. A weekly net on 147.00 MHz managed by Gerry Borg, N5APW, was set up for Wednesday evenings to coordinate the planning. Gerry soon announced that the BVARC Public Service Net would be called from W90ES on the evening of July 6, 1990 so that all who checked in to the net would qualify for the special event certificate. The May 1990 BVARC newsletter reported that fifteen BVARC members were already working in key committees to plan the event.

The July 1990 BVARC newsletter stated that the Houston Economic Summit special event station was ready to go. Volunteers were reminded that the KK5W club station was located at the M D Anderson Cancer Center, Clark Tower, 11th Floor. To get there volunteers had to take Elevator Bank G to the 10th floor and walk up one flight of stairs to the 11th floor. M D Anderson would provide free parking for the volunteers. All volunteers could obtain a “beautiful commemorative T-shirt” for \$5. To obtain a certificate for working W90ES, amateur radio operators needed to work W90ES and send an SASE to an M D Anderson address. The special event station would operate on the HF bands as well as on Houston area repeaters.

The special event station was a great success; over 4,000 contacts were made. By the end of July over 600 requests for the certificate had been received. The special event committee was holding off on printing certificates until they had a better idea of how many certificates were needed. The certificate would bear the signatures of Houston mayor Kathryn Whitmire and the University of Texas M D Anderson Cancer Center president Charles Lemaistre. The August 1990 BVARC newsletter stated that the volunteer T-shirts “were snapped up just about as fast as they could be printed.” It took BVARC member Elton Kytle, NO5C, three printing sessions to turn out the needed T-shirts. BVARC members certainly played key roles in the planning and operation of the W90ES Economic Summit special event station.



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Public Service Events Coming Up

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX

EVENT NAME – EVENT LOCATION	DATE	OPERATORS NEEDED	AMATEUR CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER
Caney Creek Enduro – Sam Houston National Park	9-27-2009	15 operators	Robert Polinski	713-248-1381
Ride to the River MS150 – San Antonio	10-3/4-2009	50 operators	Milton Johnson	210-372-3430
Louisiana Bike MS Ride – Hammond, LA	10-3/4-2009	20 operators	Bob Priez	985-542-1470
Bike around the Bay – Anahauc to Galveston	10-10/11-2009	47 operators	Mike Hardwick	713-826-6917
Fall Into Fitness 5 K – Memorial Hermann SE	10-24-2009	6 operators	Sid Sherwood	713-304-0149
Monster Mash 5K/10K – Sam Houston Racetrack	10-31-2009	12 operators	Sid Sherwood	713-304-0149
Wings Over Houston – Ellington Field, Houston	10-31/11-1-2009	75 operators	George	713-895-0700
Moonlight Ramble – Downtown Houston	11-1-2009	15 operators	John Hall	713-515-9371
TBD 5K – Sugar Land	11-7-2009	8 operators	Sid Sherwood	713-304-0149
Novemberfest – San Felipe/Sealy/Bellville	11-7-2009	18 operators	Dave Scott	832-654-9583
Independence Ride – Wallis	11-14-2009	20 operators	Mike Hardwick	713-826-6917



Monday Night NET Updates

Don't forget the Monday Night Public Service Net starts at **8 pm**, 145.47 (PL -123.0) except for the second Monday of each month when the net meets on 146.94 (167.9). 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:

6/8 - 28 - Bill & Norma, ws5h
 6/15 - 19 - Sid, n5zkd
 6/22 - 20 - Pete, kd5qpx
 6/29 - 24 - Sid, n5zkd
 7/6 - 23 - Cam, k5cam

7/13 - 29 - Randy, aa5oa
 7/20 - 17 - Cam, k5cam
 7/27 - 25 - Pete, kd5qpx
 8/3 - 27 - Cam, k5cam
 8/10 29 - Bill & Norma, ke5ndn

8/17 - 16 - Claude, k5hfy (& ws5h)
 8/24 - 24 - Pete, kd5qpx
 8/31 - 28 - Sid, n5zkd
 9/7 - 17 - Cam, k5cam
 9/14 - 23 - Randy, aa5oa+ws5h



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JOTA – Jamboree On The Air

Annual World Wide Scouting Event October 17 and 18

The annual Boy Scout and Girl Scout “Jamboree on the Air” will take place in October. A group of BVARC members will be setting up a station at St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church at the SW Freeway and Bellaire Blvd. in Sharpstown, on Saturday Oct. 17th. We are going to be operating an HF station (or two) and an VHF station. We would like to communicate with SSB, CW and digital modes, so if you have an interest in putting your license and hobby knowledge towards a bit of fun use, please contact Rick – W5RH rhiller@sdicgm.com and let him know that you would like to help out. For general info about JOTA, see September’s QST.

Late note: BVARC member Scott McKee, NT5SM, is planning to do a JOTA station out in the western reaches of Sugar Land at Holy Cross Episcopal Church, 5653 W. Riverpark Drive, Sugar Land, TX 77479, on Saturday, 17 October. This is located on the Grand Parkway about a mile north of Hwy 59. If anyone would like to help man this station, please contact Scott at cell 281-773-8550 or sbmckee@yahoo.com.



November Meeting—Elections and Chili Supper

The annual chili supper and elections are coming up. If you would like to handle the coordination for the eating portion of the meeting please contact Ross Lawler at w5hff@yahoo.com. If you would like to nominate someone for the President, Secretary or the Board member position, please contact John Moore at jwm@hal-PC.org or Mike, N5VCX at n5vcx@worldnet.att.net. More to come in the November newsletter.

To The Edge Of Space With BLT-25!

Andy MacAllister, W5ACM

Note: Allen Mattis, N5AFV, also submitted an article regarding the 2m/10M repeater that went up on this launch. Due to the length of Andy's article, Allen's article will appear in next month's issue.

In 1987, Bill Brown WB8ELK, sent a small ATV (Amateur Television) transmitter to the edge of space. The image was programmed into an ATV Repeater ID circuit. There was no camera, and the launch process from the corn fields of Ohio was difficult at best. However, it worked. Bill's subsequent talks about the adventure at various hamfests inspired a number of individuals and clubs to try something similar.

The South Texas Balloon Launch Team (BLT) was formed shortly after hearing Bill at the Arlington Hamvention in 1990. We decided that we would come up with some telemetry gear and a transmitter, and send it up.

BLT-1 was very simple, but it involved a number of folks. We knew that the gear would be subjected to extremely low temperatures and would require some serious DF (Direction Finding) skills. The transmitter was built from scratch with mil-spec components and operated on a crystal-controlled two-meter frequency. The data from a temperature probe and a pressure sensor was sent as audio tones. We had a CW ID with the callsign WB5HLZ. The batteries were Saft sulfur-dioxide lithium cells. They were the best choice for low temperatures. All of the components were tested to zero degrees F and checked out in a vacuum chamber. Things looked good, and we launched from the Huntsville Municipal Airport on Saturday, December 8, 1990.

BLT-1 landed in a private game preserve north of Tomball. We couldn't get to it, and we gave up. Bill Brown in New Hampshire had done calculations on the probable landing site and insisted that we continue the next day. We did. The payload had sufficient battery capacity to transmit for about 48 hours, and it was still on the air when we received permission to chase it on the private land. The process was slow and difficult. The payload was not easy to see, and the RF signal was the only way to find it in the middle of a heavily-forested area. There it was – hanging about 100 feet up in a tree. One of the “ranch hands” shot the eighth-inch-diameter nylon cord with a 22-caliber rifle just above the payload. This success inspired the group to continue with more experiments in the years to come.

BLT-25 flew on August 29, 2009 from the Wharton Intergalactic Spaceport, otherwise know as the Wharton Municipal Airport. All other thoughts aside, the primary goal of BLT-25 was to correct things that had not functioned properly on BLT-24 in 2008. BLT-24 was a very special flight. In addition to our experiments, we flew the engineering model of the University of Texas micro-satellite BEVO-1. The satellite-to-be functioned very well, and the students at the University of Texas in Austin successfully communicated with the BEVO-1 model. They sent commands and received data on the two-meter frequency. We were focused on getting the BEVO-1 model up in a timely and efficient manner, but a number of payloads in our BLT-24 system were either not activated properly or just didn't work up to expectations.

We would have been excited to fly another satellite prototype this year, but without one, we instead investigated things that could be done better with our own gear. A possible sub-payload for BLT-24 was a two-meter-FM to 10-meter-DSB cross-band repeater. Since we already had the BEVO-1 model as a sub-payload, that project was put on hold. For BLT-25 however, it would become a reality. The DSB transmitter was first built in 1992 by hams at the Lockheed Engineering and Sciences Company at NASA in Clear Lake. It flew once with marginal results. Further investigation, 17 years later, showed that the two-meter-FM receiver was RF deaf. A small Alinco two-meter HT took the place of the original receiver. It did very well. The transmitter only has about 100 mW output, but with only a few modifications was up for the job of another trip to the edge of space. Next time it will get further audio-level tweaks and some “boots”. We plan on a 1-Watt amplifier.

Other issues with the performance of BLT-24 were addressed. The 1255 MHz FM ATV transmitter and ground receive system had lots of drop outs. Working with the subsequent video files was exceptionally difficult. We ran tests on the transmitter and fine-tuned the receiver, antenna and preamp. The results were spectacular. The received

ATV from BLT-25 was nearly perfect. Those watching the TV from the launch site got a front-row seat to what may be the best-ever live BLT TV. Our only concern is with the high-def camera that was not responding well to the high light levels encountered. We had to switch to the back-up camera prior to flight. The high-def camera has multiple layers of internal menus and settings. This will be investigated for the next flight.

BLT-24 had a Jazz digital camcorder. We forgot to turn it on! A check list for BLT-25 ensured that we wouldn't forget this time. We didn't. In fact, we only expected one hour of recording time for BLT-25 on the digital camcorder. We got three hours. The camcorder captured everything from hanging out in the hanger through recovery between the lanes of Highway 59 near Kendleton. Screen captures and a small video can be seen at the BLT-25 pages at <http://www.w5acm.net>.

Other improvements for BLT-25 included more work on the cross-band, two-meter to 70-cm FM repeater. The only glitch this time was a last-minute switch to an HT that was not programmed to the published uplink frequency of 146 MHz. Instead we ended up with an uplink of 147.435 MHz. No problem. Folks adjusted quickly. We also worked to better insulate the onboard still camera. We got over 1100 high-res still photos!

For those into tracking without DF gear, the two 70-cm GPS systems did great. The primary unit operates on the main payload power buss and sends pure GPS data. The back-up unit had its own set of batteries and sends APRS-compatible strings. The primary unit signals were received and ported to the internet via K5WH in Houston. Stations around the world monitored the flight via the internet.

Were you at the launch of BLT-25? We had at least 32 folks show up, many from BVARC. The payloads are now all painted in violent orange for easy sighting. There is also an audio beeper to aid in locating the package when it is hidden from sight or the main power system has run out. The beeper will run for over 24 hours and the orange paint job will last for months. For batteries, we continue with sulfur-dioxide lithium cells.

We had two special passengers on BLT-25. One was Mr. Ball – a Jack-in-the-Box “tenna topper” that has flown since BLT-13. We also had a special bottle of St. Arnolds beer. But it wasn't just any beer. This was a vacuum-tested container with Divine Number One brew. To recognize the beer flight to over 95,000 feet, St Arnolds provided a small keg of their Lawnmower Ale for those that attended the launch. The flight of BLT-25 was not just an engineering endeavor, it was also a really fine party. The APRS data was perfect, as was the live TV, and all of the other repeaters, cameras, etc.

Funding for BLT-25 came from T-shirt sales. We still have some left, if you would like to help. Plans for BLT-26 are in the works. We'll get that hi-def camera working, add an amplifier for the 10-meter DSB transmitter, and come up with ... what? If you build it, we will fly it, but keep the weight down to one pound. We've got a lot of stuff that we like to fly, but we are always interested in new gear, ready for flight to The Edge of Space!



Andy WA5ZIB (now W5ACM) runs some final tests on BLT-1 prior to flight on December 8, 1990.



BLT-1, packed and ready to go, as the first South Texas Balloon Launch Team experiment. Estimated altitude was 103,000 feet.



K5ENG hangs on while BLT-25 is carefully deployed into the sky. WA5VQH helps and WA5WOD takes some photos.



Balloon, parachute, main payload and sub-payload head skyward on August 29, 2009 at 10:35 AM.

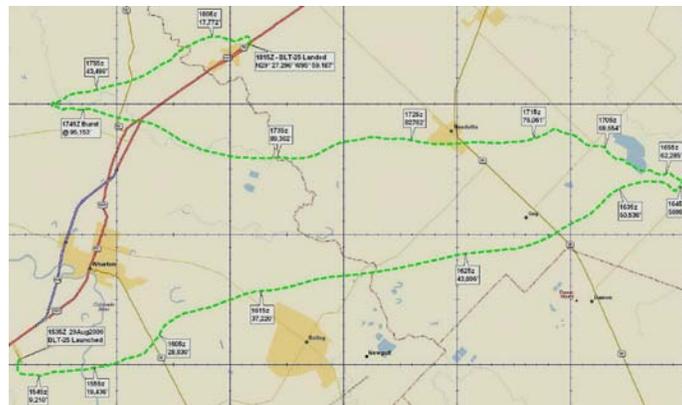
A screen capture from the onboard Jazz Camcorder just before BLT-25's balloon burst at 95, 153 feet.

A screen capture from the onboard Jazz Camcorder just before BLT-25 landed in between lanes on Highway 59 near Kendleton, Texas.



Some of the BLT crew enjoying the live video from the main payload, and just relaxing after a very successful launch.

Just one view at Hinze's BBQ on the north side of Wharton after the successful flight and recovery of BLT-25.



Detailed ground track of the flight of BLT-25 as compiled by AB5SS. The goal is to land it in the parking lot of Hinze's – maybe next year!



Minutes of September 4th, 2009 Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club:

Charles Frost called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:00 PM on September 4th, 2009 at Fudrucker's, 11445 Fountain Lake Drive, Stafford, TX. Attending were: Charles Frost, K5LBU; (Pres.); Arnold Knoche, K5ADA (Treas./Cor. Sec.); Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.); David Barber, K5NDB, (At-Large Dir.); Rick Hiller, W5RH (VP); Mike Hardwick, N5VCX (Past Pres.); Ross Lawler, W5HFF (At-Large Dir.); Norma Stone, KE5NDN; Bill Stone, WS5H; Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; John Chauvin, K5IZO; Dave Beers, AF5T.

- 1) Minutes for the August 2009 meeting were approved as they appear in the September 2009 newsletter.
- 2) Treasurer's Report was presented to and approved by the Board.
- 3) Old Business:
 - a) Arrangements are complete for having the January Awards Banquet at the Texas Land & Cattle Restaurant. There are four different menus available with several entrees on each. Entrée choices on each menu are all the same price. The price of each menu is different. There will be a cash bar. Payment must be collected before the event from those attending.
 - b) Knoche made a motion that the club subsidize the cost of each meal so that the cost to members attending is a flat \$20. Motion was approved.
 - c) Lawler was reimbursed for the expenses of the ice cream social. Total amount was \$90.
 - d) Stone reported on his investigations on the club use of calls W5DPA and KK5W.
 - e) Stone reported that the club digipeater is installed and active at West Oaks Hospital.
 - f) Stone reported that the 10-10 International web site had previously shown call W5DPA belonging to BVARC. He has succeeded in getting it listed as Houston Amateur Radio Club (HARC).
 - g) Stone has approached the ARES District 14 board about the possible future loan of the club digipeater during time of disaster. The District 14 board is considering a Memorandum of Understanding that would need to be in place to cover that arrangement.
 - h) Stone asked the board to consider adding equipment to the digipeater, now at West Oaks Hospital, that would upgrade it to a RMS server. Stone was confident that hospital administration would provide internet access to make the upgrade possible.
- 4) New business:
 - a) Stone expressed the strong feeling that KK5W should be used as the BVARC call exclusively.
 - b) Stone pressed Hardwick as to why W5DPA was used as a BVARC call when it is owned by another club, HARC. Hardwick related the history of why people, himself as the most visible, were trying prevent HARC from disappearing and how BVARC became the W5DPA custodian. Stone challenged Hardwick that there was no HARC. Hardwick agreed and said that he would legally recreate the organization to receive the club call. The exchange between Stone and Hardwick became very animated, volatile and loud. Both left the meeting, separately.
 - c) Hiller made a motion, later approved, that W5DPA and all references to it be removed from all BVARC literature, web information, listings, and any other materials.
 - d) Sauermilch volunteered to engrave the three sets of HF feed line filters with BVARC identification, approved by board.
 - e) Hiller asked that BVARC support the Boy Scout function Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), October 17th and 18th, by making it a club event. He also asked that BVARC pay for the scout patched that the boys earn. Request was converted to a motion and approved.
 - f) Knoche reported that BVARC received an anonymous \$200 donation.
 - g) Hiller requested the use of the club call (KK5W) for the Texas QSO Party, September 26th and 27th.
- 5) Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX



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RESULTS OF THE September B-VARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION

As this issue goes to press, this information is unavailable. Next month's issue will have the information for both months.



THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

As this issue goes to press, this information is unavailable. Next month's issue will have the information for both months.



Note: the Technical article on building shortened/loaded dipoles by John, K5LKJ, will be delayed a month due to his unfortunate, very busy, work and personal schedule.



2009 Club Officers:

President:

Charles "Frosty" Frost, K5LBU
frosty1@pdq.net

Vice President: (Interim until voted)
Rick Hiller

rhiller@sdicgm.com

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:

Arnold Knoche, K5ADA
jakadaok@aol.com

Recording Secretary:

Pete Sauermilch
kd5qpx@arrl.net

Board Member:

David Barber, K5NDB
d_barber@att.net

Board Member:

Ross Lawler, W5HFF
w5hff@yahoo.com

At Large Board Member

(Past President):

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
n5vcx@worldnet.att.net

Club Happenings:

General Meeting

Second Thursday each month, 7:30 PM
Sugar Land Community Center,
226 Matlage Way

Board of Directors Meeting

First Thursday of each month, 7:00 PM
Fuddruckers, just South of the Fountains
Shopping Center on US 59 outbound..

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

Saturday morning breakfasts
Third Thursday dinner at 7:00 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 BREAKFAST

59 DINER, 7:30a.m., SW Freeway outbound service
road, near Kirkwood.

NEW YORK COFFEE & BAGEL SHOP, 7:30A.M., 9720
Hillcroft.

THIRD FRIDAY DINNER

As this issue goes to press, this information is not
available. Check into the Monday night net for this
information.

OTHER HAM GROUPS:

WEDNESDAYS – WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH

LUBY'S CAFETERIA, 10:30a.m., Bellaire Blvd. ½ blk.
E. of Hillcroft.

WEDNESDAYS – AMSAT & QRP GROUP

PAPPAS BARBECUE. 11:30a.m., SW corner
Westheimer & Gessner.



Hamfests

(within 200 miles of Houston)

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

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

October 3,

HamExpo

Temple Amateur Radio Club
Bell County Expo Center
[301 West Loop 121](http://www.beltonhamexpo.org)
Belton, TX

<http://www.beltonhamexpo.org>

Talk-In: 146.820 (PL 123.0)





Monthly Publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.
Serving Amateur Radio for Southwest Houston and Fort Bend County
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Editor: John Chauvin, K5IZO, k5izo@yahoo.com
Production Team: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, k5cam@arri.net
Claude Sessions, K5HFY, k5hfy@arri.net

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC) was organized in 1977, 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 7:00 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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OCTOBER 2009

**BRAZOS VALLEY
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

General Membership Meeting – Thursday, October 8, 2009

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