



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2009

VOLUME 33 ISSUE 11

November Meeting—Elections and Chili Supper

The annual chili supper and elections are coming up this month -- November 12th. Ross Lawler, W5HFF, is handling the coordination of the eating portion of the meeting, so please contact Ross if you want to bring chili, drinks, condiments, appetizers, etc. Contact Ross at Elawler@technip.com

If you would like to nominate someone for the President, Secretary or the Board member position, please contact Mike, N5VCX at n5vcx@worldnet.att.net or John Moore at jwm@hal-PC.org.



October General Membership Meeting

Our October meeting was held on October 8th, at the Sugar Land Community Center. Steve Lee of the FCC met some of us for dinner then gave a tremendous presentation and slide show about his enforcement job. Some of the examples of antennas and transmitter sites for AM broadcast stations cause many to blush. He even showed us his “Bat Mobile” and the equipment inside that. You can’t hide from the FCC....well, not for long. Steve, we sincerely appreciated your time and effort. Everyone enjoyed it.



President's Report

As this issue goes to press, the President's Report is not available. Look for it in next month's issue.



BVARC Annual Banquet -- January 2010

Texas Land and Cattle restaurant in the Fountains on Hwy 59 in Stafford will be the venue for the BVARC Annual Banquet. Cost for each attending member is \$20 (plus cash bar), one guest is allowed per member (also \$20 plus cash bar). Further details and the menu will appear in the December newsletter.



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Support your local HAM RADIO Club

The LKJ Wednesday Night Special Antenna

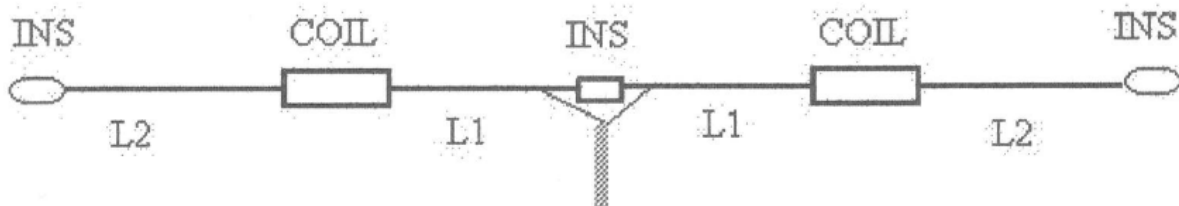
By John Whiteman – K5LKJ

A shortened (50 foot) 80 meter dipole radio antenna

Summary: The LKJ Wednesday Night Special Antenna is a shortened 80 meter, coil loaded, dipole antenna design that allows amateur radio operators with restricted space, to operate successfully on 80 meters. The antenna as shown here can handle up to 1000 watts input.

Like many amateur radio operators I live in a residential subdivision in a one story ranch style tract home. Antenna limitations in an environment of this type include the limited space of a residential lot, deed restrictions and zoning ordinances. I lacked an antenna that would allow me to check into the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC) Rag Chew Net on 80 meters (okay, 75 meters) at 3.910 kHz on Wednesday night at 7:00 PM local time. That is because I had taken down my homebrew vertical, which did cover 80 meters, to install the Hustler B4TV.

While surfing the web I came across a design for a shortened 80 meter antenna that was 50 feet long, as opposed to the normal 80 meter antenna length of 130 feet. It used two loading coils, and although a value of 67.83uH was given for the coils, the diameter was not. Since an antenna of this length would easily fit in my backyard, I decided to try and build one, even with the limited information available to me. And, if it worked, it might be of interest to other amateur radio operators and members of the club who, like myself, lacked an antenna that would allow them to check into the BVARC Rag Chew Net.



Once assembled, we hauled it up into the trees during an Amateur Radio Campers outing and used an antenna analyzer to check the tuning. Much to my dismay it was resonant way outside the amateur ham 80 meter band. So, began the process, assisted by Charles Ellisor, WA5FMK, of taking 6 wire wraps off of the each coil, and then hoisting it back up and checking the tuning. This process had to be repeated six or seven times before we got the antenna to resonate where we wanted it to, which was 3910 kHz, the frequency for the BVARC Wednesday Night Rag Chew Net.

The performance result was quite satisfactory. I was able to check into the BVARC Wednesday Night Rag Chew Net running a barefoot 100 watts and be heard by net control and most of those checking into the net. The antenna seemed to “hear” pretty well, also.

When I was requested to be net control operator for the BVARC Wednesday Night Rag Chew Net, I decided to add a linear amplifier to the mix. I purchased a Yaesu FL-2100B linear amplifier at the Belton Ham Fest in 2007. It puts out about 500 or 600 watts on 80 meters, and improved my signal strength so that I am easy copy for most check ins on the net.

The down side of LKJ Wednesday Night Special Antenna design is that, because it is a shortened antenna, it is very narrow tuning from 1:1.5 at 3910 kHz. At about 100 kc either side of 3910 you are at 3:1 standing wave. Use of a L-network antenna tuner, like the MFJ Versa Tuner V Model J-989, allows me to tune the rest of the 80 meter band with the antenna.

73, John C. Whiteman, K5LKJ

Note: John’s full article and details on building the antenna are located on the web
www.bvarc.org, click ‘Tech Articles’.

JOTA – Jamboree On The Air

BVARC KK5W Station -- October 17

It was beautiful day, plenty of help was at hand, but the scouts just didn't turn up. Yes, we had 12 scouts from the Radio Merit Badge class but their interest dwindled quickly. Not even the 2 element yagi, 40 feet up on the top of Mike's truck's mast could attract attention (except for some of the parents). The 7 hams – Dave--K5NDB, Mike--N5VCX, Sid--N5ZKD, David--KD7THJ, Pete--KD5QPX, Ross--W5HFF and Rick--W5RH had a good time and enjoyed the day...especially Ross who worked Europe and Hawaii without moving the antenna (hi). I hope the other JOTA stations around Houston had better luck. See the pictures, if John can fit them in.



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

BVARC GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST

Saturday, March 6, 2010

This is the most personnel intensive BVARC activity of the whole year. Try to help in any way that you are physically capable of. Contact either Rick Hiller, W5RH at rhiller@sdicgm.com or John Chauvin, K5IZO at k5izo@yahoo.com

Public Service Events Coming Up

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX

EVENT NAME – EVENT LOCATION	DATE	AMATEUR CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER
Novemberfest – San Felipe/Sealy/Bellville	11-7-2009	Dave Scott	832-654-9583
Independence Ride – Wallis	11-14-2009	Mike Hardwick	713-826-6917
Bike The Bend	11-22-2009	Ron Fawcett	281-980-8685
30K Warm-up Run -	12-13-2009	Mike Hardwick	713-826-6917
Houston Marathon – Houston	1-17-2010	Carl Hacker	713-500-9185
Frost Bike	1-?-2010	Mike Hardwick	713-826-6917
B-geO Magnolia Miles Bike Ride – Magnolia	3-20-2010	George Obrien	202-552-1760
BP MS150 – Houston to Austin	4-17/18-2010	Mike Hardwick	713-826-6917

x



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:

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

9/21 - 0 - no net control

9/28 - 26 - pete, kd5qpx

10/5 - 22 - Cam, k5cam

10/12 - 24 - Bill, ws5h

10/19 - 10 - Rick, w5rh

10/26 - 17 - Pete, kd5qpx



Homebrew Brew Night - December Meeting

December 10th

Bring out your latest creation for the annual Home Brew Night. Any Ham Radio or Electronics project is welcome, hardware, software, antenna concepts, models, etc. Anything that you have done THIS YEAR! A bit of a change in the rules.....no project that has appeared at other Home Brew Nights will be accepted for the prize drawings – unless you have worked on it this year to change or improve it. We all want to see what you have done THIS YEAR! We will have some prizes and some judges to decide. We also need folks to turn out and enjoy the festivities. See you on December 10th at 7:30.

Minutes of October 1st, 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 7:20 PM on October 1st, 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.); Bill Stone, WS5H; Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; Sid Sherwood, N5ZXD; Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z.

- 1) Minutes for the September 2009 meeting were amended by the request of Sauermilch. Sauermilch stated that in his opinion he had not accurately report the events described in item 4a) appearing in the September 2009 newsletter. He asked the board to approve a replacement for paragraph 4a). That replacement appears here in entirety. "Stone made the complaint that he wanted to continue the use W5DPA on the 10M nets which was opposed by Hardwick. Hardwick's expressed opposition was that W5DPA is assigned to Houston Amateur Radio Club, not BVARC and it was Hardwick's feeling that it was not correct to use both calls at essentially the same time by the same station. Hardwick asked Stone to not use W5DPA for a while so he could correct the status of W5DPA and HARS." After discussion, board approved the September minutes containing the substitution above.
- 2) Treasurer's Report was presented to and approved by the Board.
- 3) New business:
 - a) Hiller announced that Chauvin, again, is willing to chair the Greater Houston Hamfest with the condition that co-chairmen are found. Hiller and Kendrick volunteered to be co-chairmen.
 - b) Sherwood requested that the board condone moving the Monday net from the 145.47 to the 146.94 repeater on November 2nd. The move is requested to improve coverage to those members unable to use the 145.47 repeater. Board approved the move even though no vote is required. Changes in Monday net format and content were discussed. No resolution was reached regarding the net's new format. Notification is to be given on every Monday net before the move.
 - c) Mitchell summarized a meeting among Eddie Runner, Mitchell, Chauvin, and Sauermilch regarding Runner's offer to rewrite the BVARC web site. Mitchell made the following requests for of the board.
 - i) Runner be authorized to create a new listserve to replace the current listserve on CLARK's server. Board approved request.
 - ii) Runner be added to the BVARC web site committee, be given approval to rewrite the site, and be given appropriate account names and passwords. Board approved request.
 - iii) Runner be allowed to create a Pay Pal mechanism that would allow BVARC members to renew membership. Board approved as long as the existing method remains in place and any additional expense of using Pay Pal be born by the person using the service.
 - iv) The contents of the website be backed-up along with all account names and passwords that BVARC holds to do its business on a regular basis. This should be done once per year and archive copies of the site would be given to the Treasurer and Recording Secretary. Board approved request.
 - d) Sauermilch requested that BVARC create an Asset Record of all property owned by the club. Board approved request. Sauermilch is to create such record.
 - e) Frost commented that there have been no nominations for the January awards.
- 4) Schedule and Coming Events:
 - a) October General Membership Meeting: Steve Lee (FCC) is the speaker for the meeting and a group is taking him to dinner at the Live Oak Grill before the meeting.
 - b) October 31st: Ellington Air Show, operators needed.
 - c) November General Membership Meeting: Elections and Chili Supper, Ross Lawler Chairman, volunteers needed.
 - d) November BoD Meeting: November 12th, Fudrucker's Stafford, 7:00PM.
 - e) December: Home Brew Night
 - f) January: Banquet: Knoche summarized the cost as follows; Menu including dessert \$23.99, Sales tax 1.98, 20% gratuity 4.80, Total \$30.77. BVARC will write a check to Texas Land & Cattle for \$30.77 times the total number of meals served. The Board has voted to charge \$20 each to BVARC members and their guests. Members must pay BVARC in advance, or no later than at the banquet. Cash bar for alcoholic beverages paid by members to Texas Land & Cattle.
- 5) Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX



RESULTS OF THE September 8th & October 13th B-VARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSIONS

By: John Moore, KK5NU

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination sessions that were held on Tuesday, September 8 & October 13, 2009 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

September 8: Dennis Dietrich, W5DDD Jeff Fussell, KD5VGE
 Larry Jacobson, K5LJ George Ontko, KM5VP
 Robert Trahan, KE5ZPJ

October 13: Dennis Dietrich, W5DDD Jeff Fussell, KD5VGE
 John Moore, KK5NU George Ontko, KM5VP

Sept. 8: Four examination elements were administered during the evening to four applicants. Three new Technician class licenses and one upgrade to General class were attained; with the total number of elements passed being 4. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

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

Michael A. Bee	-	KF5CQC	-	General
William Kelly	-	{KF5CZP}	-	Technician
Owen Morgan	-	{KF5CZO}	-	Technician
Jacob Yates	-	{KF5CZN}	-	Technician

October 13: Five examination elements were administered during the evening to four applicants. One new Technician class license; an upgrade to General class and an upgrade to Amateur Extra class were attained; with the total number of elements passed being 3. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 66.66%.

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

Robert P. L. Ferguson	-	K5AWC	-	Amateur Extra
Owen L. Morgan	-	KF5CZO	-	General
Roy E. Storey, Jr.	-	{KF5DMK}	-	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 Campus for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

..... 73



THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

September & October check-ins

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

08/26/09, K5LKJ (NCS), WS5H, K5NDB, KC5JAR, WA5CYI, WB5PNL, K5SHY, AA5OA, W5RJA (Schulenburg), N5CPA, K5LJ, W5TOM, K5JWM, W5UHZ (Beaumont), W5RH, K5SEE, AF5T, KA5MEI. (18 Check-Ins)

09/02/09, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CAM, N5CPA, W5RJA (Schulenburg), K5LBU, W5TOM, WS5H, K5NDB, KC5FSY, K5LJ, KC5JAR, W5UHZ (Beaumont), AF5T, KA5MEI, W5HFF (M), WB5PNL, W5RH, KB5JJW, WA5CYI, KF5AHV, K5JWM, KD5YOU, K5HFY. (23 Check-Ins)

09/09/09, N5CPA (NCS), K5CEK (T), K5LKJ (R), K5NDB, K5HFY, WA5CYI, AF5T, KC5JAR, WA5FMK, WD5CQO, W5HFF (M), K5LJ, W5RJA (Schulenburg), WB5VWB, WB5PNL, W5RH, WS5H, KE5WFA. (18 Check-Ins)

09/16/09, WS5H (NCS), KA5MEI, WA5CYI, N5CPA, K5LJ, KC5JAR, W5RJA (Schulenburg), K5NDB, W5HFF (M), WS5H, AF5T, K5HFY, AA5OA, WD6CQO, K5AKA. (15 Check-Ins)

09/23/09, K5LKJ (NCS), KC5JAR, WS5H, AF5T, W5RJA (Schulenburg), W5TOM, N5CPA, K5CEK (T), K5NDB, W5UHZ (Beaumont), K5HFY, WA5CYI, K5LJ, WB5KTF, WA5FMK, WB5VWB, AA5OA, W5HFF (M), KD5YOU. (19 Check-Ins)

09/30/09, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, K5LOT, K5IZO, KA5MEI, N5SGY (Kaufman), W5UHZ (Beaumont), WB5PNL (Beach City), K5NDB, N5CPA, W5RJA (Schulenburg), K5HFY, W5TOM, K5LJ, WS5H, AA5OA, W5RH, KD5YOU, KB5JJW. (19 Check-Ins)

10/07/09, K5LKJ (NCS), N5CPA, W5UHZ (Beaumont), W5RJA (Schulenburg), AA5OA, WB5PNL (Beach City), KE5OBY, WA5FMK, WS5H, W5RH, KC5JAR, K5NDB. (12 Check-Ins)

10/14/09, N5CPA (NCS), AB5G (Baton Rouge, LA), K5HFY, W5TOM, AA5OA, WS5H, W5UHZ (Beaumont), W5RJA (Schulenburg), K5NDB, WA5FMK, N5ZKD, KD5FX, N5TGM (Dickson, TN), WA4HZJ (Killen, AL), KE5MBD (Horseshoe Bend, AR). (15 Check-Ins)

10/21/09, K5LKJ (NCS), W5RJA (Schulenburg), W5TOM, WA5FMK, KA5MEI (Hockley), W1DVM (Hawthorne, FL), K5NDB, K5LJ, N5CPA, WB5VWB, WS5H, WD6CQO (Nederland), AA5OA, KA5BKG (Brenham), KB5JJW, AF5T, KC5JAR, K5BKT (Benton, AR), N5PAF (Humble). (19 Check-Ins)

(M) = mobile (P) = Portable (R) = Relay (T) = telephone check-in



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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 Sauerlich

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 THURSDAY/FRIDAY DINNER is cancelled for November due to schedule conflicts.

OTHER HAM GROUPS:

WEDNESDAYS – WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH---(Note new location)

LUBY'S CAFETERIA, 10:30a.m. to 12:00Noon +, 9797 South Post Oak Road, just south of the I-610 Loop in Meyer Park Shopping Center.

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>

South Texas Amateur Radio Club, 14 Nov 2009

Hiltop Community Center, [11425 Leopard Street](#)

Corpus Christi, TX

<http://n5crp.org>

Talk-In: 147.820 (107.2 Tone)

San Antonio 2010 Amateur Radio Fiesta, 23 Jan 2010

San Antonio Radio Club

Knights of Columbus Hall

509 Schertz Parkway, Shertz, TX

<http://w5sc.org>

Talk-In: 146.940- (PL 179.9)





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@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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NOVEMBER 2009

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

General Membership Meeting , Elections & Chili Supper – 7:30PM, Thursday, Nov. 12.

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