



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

AUGUST 2011

VOLUME 35 ISSUE 8



BVARC AUGUST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7:30 PM, Thursday, August 11, 2011

226 Matlage Way Community Center, Sugar Land, Texas

Annual Ice Cream Social

The August Meeting will be the Annual Ice Cream Social. We'll have a short meeting (while the ice cream melts) and then proceed to enjoy the sugary (and non-sugary) treats of a delectable characteristics, all the while fraternizing and viewing the video from BLT-26, a slide show from BVARC Field Day and Museum Ships Weekend, followed by a slide show of a special collection of Ham Radio cartoons.

Ice cream, treats and drinks will be provided. However, if you would like to bring some ice cream or other dessert condiments, please let Ross, W5HFF, or Rick, W5RH, know via e-mail or cell phone.

NOTE: All meetings now through September will be at our "regular" meeting location – the Sugarland Community Center on Matlage Way.



July Meeting Report

The July meeting focused on readouts on three great amateur radio events:

- Museum Ships Weekend – Bill WS5H
- Field Day 2011 – Ross W5HFF
- Dayton Hamvention 2011 – Rick W5RH

The moderators above made short presentations with lots of input from those attending.





Presidents Corner By Rick Hiller – W5RH

The Original Social Network – Ham Radio

Ham Radio is, in general, all about 2 things – electronic /radio technology and socializing. Recently there have been some comparisons of Facebook to Ham Radio, with Ham Radio being the “original social network” (How right they are). We all love the technology, and this technology lets us, or makes us, socialize on the air -- in SIG’s(Special Interest Groups -- BLT, QRP, DX, etc.) and within a club, such as BVARC. You can choose your on-the-air “socializing poison” of CW, phone, digital and pictures -- like in SSTV.

Within BVARC we socialize every week, every month and every year. Weekly we have the Public Service, Under 15 CW and Rag Chew nets, plus the regular eating places on Wednesday and Saturday. Monthly, we get together as a club for our general membership meeting on the second Thursday of each month. Yearly, we have a few opportunities like the Annual Awards Banquet in January, but 2 of the more popular socializing events occur in August and November of each year. August is the Ice Cream Social and November is the Chili Night, respectively. You could also look outside the club and see where to socialize, like on 2 meter or UHF repeaters during drive time. If you have HF mobile, try out the new 10 meter FM repeater or work 40 meters on the way to work and 17 meters while you are headed home. In the evenings get on the HF bands in all modes. You see, you are always putting out your feelers for new acquaintances and chatting to your old friends too.

A few new acquaintances with which to socialize are new members James Roeder, KF5BMW, and Dominic Mazoch, N5TCB. Welcome to BVARC. Another new member AND a new licensee is Gayle Dotts, KF5LVZ.

Congrats for passing your test, Gayle, and for becoming a BVARC member back in June. Gayle is an enthusiastic beginner, venturing into Ham Radio at just the right time – those post retirement years. We all look forward to meeting all three of you on the bands.

The 30 Day Challenge. Back in my days of world traveling as a doodlebugger, I would always say that I would go anywhere once. If I hadn’t been somewhere and there was an opportunity to go, I was the first in line. Some places were great, some not so hot, but afterwards I had been there and I knew all about it. A very satisfying and learning experience, be it good or bad. There is a TED video online that talks about “Taking the 30 Day Challenge”. Do something, or don’t do something, for the next 30 days. This video talks about biking to work, giving up sugar, walk 10,000 steps per day, etc. Sounds do-able. Let’s apply this to our Ham Radio hobby. What new can we do every day for 30 days? Some suggestions.....make an HF QSO every day, spend 1 hour listening to CW, or make one CW contact each day, make one PSK-31 contact daily, listen and maybe talk on a different repeater every day or study every day for 30 minutes for your next license upgrade. Think about it and pick something that is a small change, but obtainable, that you do not do now. After 30 days, write about it on the reflector or for the newsletter and tell us all about it. You can do anything for 30 days...even eating less (one for me – HI).

So, exit from your Facebook page, turn off your Tweeting and messaging smart phone and get on the air or come out to a BVARC meeting. August 11th is our annual Ice Cream Social. Just like it says, there is ice cream for eating and many BVARC members and friends with whom to socialize. A good time is had by all. Come on out and discover for yourself if Ham Radio really is the “original social network”.

Enjoy your hobby. See you on the radio. 73....Rick – W5RH (dit dit)



SOUTH TEXAS BALLOON LAUNCH – BLT 27

August 10 (backup 17th), 10 AM, Wharton Airport

If you haven’t seen one of these yet, take a run down there after breakfast and see this. It is quite a production and quite an application of many aspects of amateur radio. Details are expected to be uploaded on the website by the time you receive this newsletter – www.w5acm.net



THE BVARC Rag Chew Net July check-ins

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

06/29/11, K5LKJ (NCS), K0NM, K5NDB, K5IZO, WS5H, K5LJ, W5TKZ, N5CPA, N5DTT, W5HFF (M)(Houston), K5LBU, WX5YZ (Eagle Lake), AA5OA, KE5HSW (Lake Charles, LA), KA5TJS (San Augustine), WB5PNL (Beach City), W5RH, KA6QDE. (18 Check-Ins)

07/06/11, K5LKJ (NCS), N5CPA, WA5FMK, W5TKZ, K5NDB, K0NM, WS5H, K5LJ, KA5LYL (Corpus Christi, TX), K5IZO, W5RH, WB5TMX (DeRidder, LA), K5LBU, N5DTT, WB5PNL (Beach City), KA5TJS (San Augustine), KE5WQD (Louisville).

(17 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 85, SN = 30, A = 13, K = 3

07/13/11, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, W5TKZ, WS5H, N5CPA, K5IZO/5 (Jasper), W5HFF (M)(Houston), K5LJ, K5NDB, K0NM, KA5TJS (San Augustine), WA5CYI, AA5OA, WB5PNL (Beach City), N5DTT, W5RH, KE5OBY®, WA9YNJ, AF5T. (19 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 92, SN = 62, A = 9, K = 1

07/20/11, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, K5NDB, W5TOM, WA5CYI (T), WA5JWM (T), KD5CDM (T), W5HFF (M) (Houston), K5LJ, N5CPA, K0NM, K5IZO, WS5H, W5RH, AA5OA, WB5PNL (Beach City), KE5OBY, KA5TJS (San Augustine), KB5VTB.

(21 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 100, SN = 96, A = 13, K = 2

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

Thanks. , Regards._John C. Whiteman



Temporary "Lunch Bunch" location change

The Luby's on Post Oak where we normally meet will be closed for approximately one month while they move into their new building at the same location.

Effective **August 3, 2011** the Wednesday Lunch Bunch will meet at **Hunan's, 3835 Bellaire Blvd. at 11:00 AM**

Hunan's offers 30 different luncheons. They start at \$6.75 and run up to \$7.95. Most of their luncheons are large enough to feed two people.

Note: the doors do not open until 11:00 AM we can NOT come in early as we do at Luby's
The current plan is to eat Wednesday Lunch at Hunan's for the next four Wednesdays.
Luby's should be open for our return on Wednesday August 31, 2011.



River Oaks Car Stereo

4129 Richmond (near Wesleyan) 713-626-7627
Houston, Texas 77027

Ham Radio -Car Stereo-Car Alarms- -Mobile Video-Radar Detectors-Police Scanners- Bluetooth Hands
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HOUSTON'S MOBILE HAM RADIO GUYS

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Eddie - NU5K

Dwayne - KB5YTA Eddie Jr – KB5OBB

Russell - KE5YYT- Darrell-KC5JAR

Patricia -KE5YYV - Suzanne -KF5GWZ

www.riveroakscarstereo.com

www.installer.com

HAM RADIO IS BACK IN HOUSTON AGAIN!



Monday Night NET Updates

Don't forget the Monday Night Public Service Net starts at **8 pm** 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:

4/18 - 33 - Cam, k5cam

4/25 - 30 - Pete, kd5qpx

5/2 - 28 - Cam, k5cam

5/9 - 26 - Clint, kd5hdf

5/16 - 23 - Dwayne, kb5yta

5/23 - 31 - Pete, kd5qpx

5/30 - 25 - Sid,n5zkd

6/6 - 42 - Cam, k5cam

6/13 - 25 - Clint, kd5hdf

6/20 - 32 - Dwayne, kb5yta

6/27 - 37 - Cam, k5cam

7/4 - 23 - Cam, k5cam

7/11 - 33 - Clint, kd5hdf

7/18 - 45 - Dwayne, kb5yta

7/25 - 44 - Pete, kd5qpx



RESULTS OF THE July 12 BVARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION
BVARC Amateur License Examination Session
By: John Moore, KK5NU

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, July 12, 2010 at HCC's Scarcella Science & Technology Building here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

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

Seven examination elements were administered during the evening to seven applicants. Six new Technicians and an upgrade to Amateur Extra class license were attained; with the total number of elements passed being 7. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

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

Steven A. Chaves	- {KF5LVY}	- Technician
Gayle E. Dotts	- {KF5LVZ}	- Technician
Bob R. Hawkins	- {KF5LWA}	- Technician
Harold E. Mignola	- {KF5LWB}	- Technician
Marius Raducan	- {KF5LWC}	- Technician
William C. Schleppegrell	- {AE5YY}	- Amateur Extra
Marina A. Tetzlaff	- {KF5LWD}	- 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 Science & Technology Building for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

..... 73



Minutes of the July Board Meeting are not available as this issue goes to press. Please check next month's issue for the minutes.





BVARC Historical Vignettes –Programs at BVARC Meetings Not Related to Amateur Radio

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

By far, the vast majority of programs presented at BVARC general membership meetings are related to amateur radio. Occasionally programs have been presented that focus on an unrelated topic. The program presented at the November 1985 meeting two months after I joined the club was such a program, and I probably remember it because I expected to hear a program related to amateur radio but did not.

The November 1985 meeting was held at the Missouri City Municipal Building and consisted of a brief business meeting, elections, and a program provided by Tom Sellers, K5CNU. Tom showed a video about a Canadian named Rick Hanson. At the age of 15, Rick Hansen sustained a spinal cord injury in a car crash and was paralyzed from the waist down. Hanson's favorite saying was "anything is possible" and after months of physical rehabilitation, he began to participate in wheelchair sports. Hanson became a world class wheel chair athlete, and later founded his Spinal Cord Institute (<http://www.rickhansen.com/code/navigate.aspx?Id=1>). Last year when I learned that I was facing spinal cord surgery, I remembered the program Tom had presented about Rick Hanson and a search on the Internet quickly connected me with Hanson's website. Additional Internet searches provided me with useful information that helped me to make informed decisions regarding my upcoming medical treatment.

We all know that it is often stated that BVARC is as much an eating society as it is an amateur radio club, and another program not related to amateur radio that I remember was presented at the February 1989 BVARC meeting held at the Missouri City Fire Station. The program was entitled Dietary Tips for Hams, and was presented by Lori Valencic, a well known Houston area nutrition consultant. Valencic founded her own company, Lori Valencic Associates, over 25 years ago and has worked in the Houston area as a consultant for Randall's Supermarkets and Conoco. Valencic spoke that evening about selecting healthy foods when shopping at a grocery store and how to eat healthier at a restaurant. Some very good information was given out in that program.

While I have to admit that I generally prefer hearing programs related to amateur radio at our meetings of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, I also recall a number of the past programs not related to amateur radio that were also worthwhile and informative.



BVARC "Under 15" CW Net **Tuesday 7PM** **3.550 MHz**

Join us for a fun filled 30 to 45 minutes of working the CW mode. We welcome the new folks with open arms, so join us.

Net is transmitted at 11/15 WPM Farnsworth spacing, so it is easy to copy. The net structure is just like the Rag Chew Net on Wednesday nights.

Pre-amble, then the call for check-ins "QNI?".... and then each station is called "QTT" to invite them to transmit a short greeting or message.

Net Control Station (NCS) is Rick, W5RH.

Frequency is on **3.550 MHz**. Listen to a sample pre-amble (mp3) on the CW Net web page at <http://bvarc.org/index.php?page=cwnet>

Just have a listen or join in, but do get on the air and have some fun with some slow speed CW.

August 16th is the CW Net's 1 year anniversary!

2011 Club Officers:

President:

Rick Hiller, W5RH
rhiller@sdicgm.com

Vice President:

Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z
kmkendrick@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary

Robert Tomlinson
rbtswim@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Arnold Knoche, K5ADA
jakadaok@aol.com

Recording Secretary:

Pete Sauermilch, KD5QPX
kd5qpx@arrl.net

Board Member:

Dywane Jones, KB5YTA
dwayneredhonda@gmail.com

Board Member:

Ross Lawler, W5HFF
w5hff@yahoo.com

At Large Board Member

(One year – vs Past President):
Bill Stone, WS5H

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

See in adjacent column.

Rag Chew Net

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

Public Service Net

Monday night on 146.94 (PL 167.9) at
8:00 PM

BVARC EATING SCHEDULE

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

We are currently trying “Kelly’s” on West Airport about 400 yards west of US 59 South. Arrive 7:00 to 7:30AM.
NEW YORK COFFEE & BAGEL SHOP, 7:30a.m., 9720 Hillcroft.

THURSDAYS BEFORE CLUB MEETINGS--6.15p.m.

VASOS BAR-B-Q, 9920 Hwy. 90-A, #D-120 on the SW corner of US Hwy. 90-A and Dairy Ashford.

OTHER HAM GROUPS:

WEDNESDAYS – WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH

Temporary change while Luby’s moves into the new building:
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WEDNESDAYS – AMSAT & QRP GROUP

PAPPAS BAR-B-Q, 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>

Austin Summerfest & Texas State Convention

August 5

Austin Airport Marriott South
4415 South IH-35, Austin, TX

Sponsor: Austin ARC & Texas VHF-FM Society

Website: <http://www.austinsummerfest.org>

Talk-In: 146.34/.94 (PL 107.2)

HamEXPO 2011 – October 1

Bell County Expo Center
301 Loop 121, Belton, TX 76513

Website: <http://www.beltonhamexpo.org>

Sponsor: Temple Amateur Radio Club

Talk-In: 146.820- (PL 123.0)





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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

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 146.94 (minus offset, PL 167.9 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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AUGUST 2011

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

BVARC General Membership Meeting – August 11, Sugar Land Community Center

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