



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

APRIL 2012

VOLUME 36 ISSUE 4

BVARC April GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7:15 PM, Thursday, April 12, 2012

234 Matlage Way, Imperial Park Recreation Center, Sugar Land, Texas

NOTE: The start time is 7:15PM (NOT the usual 7:30)

Joint Meeting of BVARC and Texas DX Society: Ham Radio Cruising

The April meeting is the 2nd Annual Joint Meeting of BVARC and Texas DX Society. This year, we have a great group of hams that will explain how to plan and operate amateur radio from cruise ships. After introductions, we'll go directly into the night's programs:

- Ham Cruise 2011 – The Rumfields – Lance WD5X with the help of Debbie N5DSR, and their twin sons, Timmy W5TMR and Danny WD5DTR.
- More Ham Cruising – Bob Hardie W5UQ and Kirk Kendrick KK2Z
- Satellites and Cruising - Fun in the Sun – Allen Mattis N5AFV

NOTE: The TDXS group is meeting at 5:30pm for a pre-meeting dinner at Vasos BBQ located at the Southwest CORNER of Dairy Ashford Road and USA Highway 90.



March Meeting Report

The March meeting was a special presentation on SKYWARN™ -- a training program sponsored by the Houston-Galveston National Weather Service Office in conjunction with Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management.

SKYWARN™ Volunteers are trained to watch the skies during severe weather so they can relay reports back to the local Emergency Management Office and/or the Houston-Galveston National Weather Service (NWS) Office.

The SKYWARN™ training covered:

- Basics of thunderstorm development
- Fundamentals of storm structure
- Identifying potential severe weather features
- How to report information
- Basic severe weather safety





The President's Corner

President's Corner

By Kirk Kendrick – KK2Z

QST...QST...QST...

The big BVARC event for March was the Greater Houston Hamfest. With the help of a large group of BVARC volunteers handling the many, many tasks involved, the Hamfest was a great success.

With such a large event, we held a debriefing session and have well over 100 responses on the Survey Monkey feedback form. LOTS of great ideas and opportunities to make next year even better. Have you sent your feedback in???

So what do we do when we have a gorgeous weekend like the first weekend of Spring? We get our antennas ready for action this summer and Field Day (last full weekend in June). I built a pair of pneumatic launchers – one based on the simple plan from QST last year, and one that uses a sprinkler valve as the actuator (that one needs a little work on the valve mechanism). I used some small lengths of PVC pipe, closed with end caps, and a screw eye to attach the line from a small spin cast reel.....easily cleared 75-80' with only 60# of air from a bicycle pump! The pump will go to over 100#...or I could use my compressor ;-). Result?? I now have lines in two trees spaced about 200' apart...up about 60'. I'm ready to raise some more wires!!

It's hard to believe that it's been a whole year since the last joint meeting of BVARC and TDXS. I hope to see all of you at the meeting on April 12! Learn how to plan your own ham cruise, from operating satellites, to HF, to QRP digital.

And, remember – BVARC hosts several nets every week!

- Mondays at 8pm CST on 146.94 MHz PL 167.9 is the BVARC Public Service net. Announcements about upcoming club activities and other amateur radio related fun.
- Tuesdays at 7pm CST on 3550 kHz (3.550 MHz) is the "Under 15wpm" CW net. This is a chance for everyone to try CW on the air – new hams and old welcomed.
- Wednesdays at 7pm CST on 3910 kHz (3.910 MHz) is the BVARC Rag Chew net. You never know who will join or where the discussion takes us!

Get on the Air with BVARC!

73 de Kirk KK2Z



The 2012 GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST

A success by all standards

This year's Greater Houston Hamfest had the most attendees ever, the most tables ever (which sold out) and the most vendors ever. Most importantly is that there were very few complaints and it appeared that the vast majority had an good time. The weather was perfect.

We had 166 tables, of which about 40 were for BVARC's and Organizations's use. The rest of the tables were for table sellers and commercial vendors. It is hard to get an exact count of the number of attendees, however using gate receipts and other sources, it looks like we broke 800.



We were fortunate to have had some generous donors so there were actually 5 raffle prizes, with the Grand Prize being a Flex Radio Systems SDR-3000. Raffle sales were slightly less than last year. There were numerous door prizes and many more people stayed to closing time, probably to be there during the "rapid fire" redraw of the unclaimed door prizes and the drawing of the 5 raffle prizes.



Lee Morin, KF5DDB, NASA Astronaut



Raffle drawing

We had an excellent slate of speakers, with the Keynote Speaker being Mike Gruber, W1MG, RFI expert from ARRL Headquarters. We also found out several weeks in advance that Lee Morin, KF5DDB, an Astronaut would also be a speaker. Many people had trouble choosing which lectures to attend as all were superb and, as with virtually all conventions and trade shows, many lectures ran in parallel. Thank you to all of our speakers.



Scott McKee NT5SM and Holly McKee KE5WOU at Ham Kids' Table



Mike Gruber, W1MG, RFI expert from ARRL HQ

The Red Cross Emergency Vehicle was there, various tail gaters were in the lot, and there was a strong presence by the ARRL as indeed once again, the Hamfest was also the STX Section ARRL Convention.

There were several new problems which have already been addressed. We have repeatedly asked attendees and non-attendees to give us feedback so we can continue to improve the Hamfest each year. We even had an on-line survey and received 122 submissions. ALL of these have already been reviewed and are being considered in the upcoming weeks while they are fresh on everyone's mind. Because of the sellout, we are already looking at ways to accommodate more sellers without crowding, possibly a change of venue and even a change in date. All this will be resolved within a few weeks so everyone can mark down the details on their calendar for 2013.



Presentation of \$1000 check to ARRL for Spectrum Defense Fund



Foxhunt

See a lot more photos on the BVARC website.

In order to “pull this off,” we had an army of volunteers “make it happen.” We have tried to identify the volunteers and the current count is at 76 and growing. MANY MANY THANKS to all that stepped up to the plate.

See y’all next year!

Tnx es 73
de John, K5IZO
2012 Greater Houston Hamfest Co-Coordinator



Minutes of March 1st, 2012 Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club:

Kirk Kendrick called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:00 PM on March 1st, 2012 at Fuddrucker's, 11445 Fountain Lake Drive, Stafford, TX. Attending were: Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z (Pres.); Ross Lawler, W5HFF (V.P.); Bob Tomlinson, N5JSL (Cor. Sec./Treas.); Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.); David Barber, K5NDB (1yr At-Large Dir.); Eddie Runner, NU5K (Webmaster); Suzanne Runner, KF5GWZ; Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; John Chauvin, K5IZO (Newsletter Editor); Charles Frost, K5LBU; Jerry Muller, KF5EYC.

1. Secretary's Report: Minutes for the February 2012 meeting, as appears in the March 2012 newsletter, were amended as follows and then approved by the Board.
 - 1.1. First sentence: (WAS) Rick Hiller called ... ; (IS) Kirk Kendrick called
 - 1.2. Numbered Paragraph 3, Second Sentence: (WAS) January, Hiller will ... ; (IS) February, Hiller will
 - 1.3. Numbered Paragraph 3, Fourth Sentence: (WAS) ... “Ham Radio Cursing”; (IS) ... “Ham Radio Cruising”.
2. Treasurer's Report:
 - 2.1. Tomlinson presented the report to the Board and was approved. Muller opined that the Board can't approve the treasurer's report but can only move to send it to the auditor.
 - 2.2. Tomlinson presented reports on the cost of the Awards Banquet and the Greater Houston Hamfest finances as they existed on 2/28/12.
 - 2.3. Tomlinson informed the Board that the 2011 taxes have been filed by the club CPA.
3. VP Report:
 - 3.1. The March meeting is in place.
 - 3.2. The April meeting, Ham Radio Cruising, is also in place.
4. Old business:
 - 4.1. Greater Houston Hamfest:
 - 4.1.1. Chauvin saw no “show-stoppers”.
 - 4.1.2. Tomlinson said we have 72 prepaid attendees and all vendor tables are sold.
 - 4.2. Spectrum Defense Fund: Tomlinson presented to the Board two sets of email-chains between himself and the ARRL staff. These emails provide the written documentation required by the Board that we can donate to the Spectrum Defense Fund without jeopardizing our non-profit status.
 - 4.2.1. Motion made: The emails provided by Tomlinson from the ARRL are sufficient documentation, BVARC will make a donation to the Spectrum Defense Fund. Motion unanimously approved.
 - 4.2.2. Motion made: The Spectrum Defense Fund donation should be \$ 1,000 and presented to the ARRL at the Greater Houston Hamfest. Motion unanimously approved.
 - 4.3. Wish List: Chauvin reported that a Viewsonic Computer Projector has been purchased by the club in accordance with the wish list.
5. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX

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THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

February check-ins

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

02/29/12, W5TKZ (NCS), WS5H, K5CEK, K5NDB, KC5JAR (M) (Houston), W5RH, AA5OA, WA5CYI, K0NM, N5CPA, NU5K, K5IZO, WB5PNL (Beach City), AF5BV, KF5GLB. (15 Check-Ins)
Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 121, SN = 85, A = 8, K = 3

03/07/12, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, WS5H, K5CEK, N5CPA, K5NDB, K5LJ, W5RH, N5DTT, K5DLL (Deer Park), W5TOM, K0NM, K5IZO, WA5CYI, AA5OA, KE5OBY, WB5PNL (Beach City), AF5T.
(18 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 138, SN = 109, A = 8, K = 5

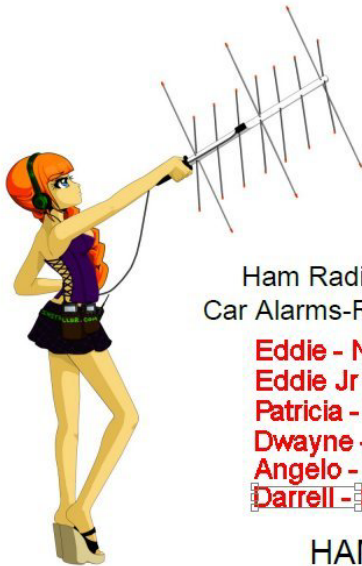
03/14/12, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, AF5T, K5NDB, N5CPA, WS5H, K5HTB (M), K5LJ, AA5OA, W5RH, K5IZO, K0NM, WB5PNL (Beach City), KE5OBY (T), K5DLL (Deer Park). (15 Check-Ins)
Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 97, SN = 24, A = 10, K = 2

03/21/12, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, W5RH, W5TKZ, AF5T, K5NDB, AA5OA, WS5H, WA5CYI, N5CPA, K0NM, K5HTB, N5DTT, WB5PNL (Beach City), KC5JAR (Katy), KE5OBY (T), NTBMB (Elm Mott). (17 Check-Ins)
Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 100, SN = 74, A = 4, K = 2
(M) = mobile (P) = Portable (R) = Relay (T) = telephone check-in

Thanks. Regards._
John C. Whiteman, K5LKJ

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Eddie - NU5K
Eddie Jr - KB5OBB
Patricia - KE5YYV
Dwayne - KB5YTA
Angelo - KF5MJV
Darrell - KC5JAR

www.houstonhamradio.com
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www.installer.com

Yes, we can install Ham radio in your car!

HAM RADIO IS BACK IN HOUSTON AGAIN!



Amateur Radio First Class Postage Stamp issued Dec 15, 1964

Multi Club Tailgate Sale

When: April 28
Where: The Summit High School
1838 E Sam Houston Pkwy
Pasadena, TX.
Time: 7am till

Sponsored by: PARC, CLARC, BAARC, PERC, Pearland, Clear Lake, Baytown & Pasadena Radio Clubs



2012 BP MS150 Bike Tour Amateur Radio Volunteer Information

Do you think you can handle emergency communications for a large incident? Can you quickly install your radio equipment into emergency vehicles to help provide communications disasters? If you would like to find out if you have the “right stuff” and learn how to be better prepared for emergency communications then sign up to help with event communications for the 2012 BP MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Tour. Amateur radio communications provided reliable and needed communications for the entire 2-day bike ride that has over 13,000 riders. Operators are assigned at many locations along the route relaying important radio traffic between the Houston Command Post and event officials. Some of the positions that need communicators are:

- **Break points** – Providing communications for supplies, medical problems and SAG control at break points on the route. – This can be just a few hours to a full day commitment. It is dependent on the location.
- **Medical vehicles** – Operators ride in First Responder vehicles for emergency medical communications during the event. – **This is 2 day commitment**
- **MS150 Staff** – Operators ride with MS150 staff to provide communications for important issues and problems during the ride. – **This is 2 day commitment**
- **SAG vehicles** – Provided communications for the SAG drivers who are on the course picking up riders that have mechanical problems or that can no longer ride. – **This is 2 day commitment**
- **Supply Trucks** – Provide communications for the supply trucks so supplies can be routed to the needed locations to deliver supplies and materials. – **This is 2 day commitment**
- **Houston Command Post** – The command post interacts with medical incidents, and other problems on the ride. The command post monitors the ride on VHF and UHF amateur bands. Medical vehicles are tracked with APRS and commercial tracking units along the entire course and the information is relayed to the course medical coordinator. The command post is set up to receive calls from event personnel and emergency services along the route through an 800 telephone number to coordinate emergency calls and situations. - This can be a one hour commitment to two days. The command post is open from noon Friday to midnight Sunday so many operators are needed to fill this long time period.

Amateur radio volunteers need a minimum of a dual band VHF/UHF radio that has a minimum of 25 watts output and a gain type magnetic mount antenna (1/4 wave antennas do not work). If assigned to an event vehicle, you must be able to easily transfer between vehicles since assignments do change during the event. Food and sleeping areas (bed linens not provided) are provided for volunteers along the route on Saturday and Sunday by the NMSS organization. A secure parking area will be provided for your vehicle in Houston or Austin if needed. Transportation is available back to Houston for the volunteers that are assigned to event vehicles.

Volunteer hours begin at **4:00 am sharp on Saturday morning and will end between 8 and 10 pm on Sunday**. If you would like to volunteer or find out more information, please go to <http://bpms150hams.org> and register for the ride or call Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, at 713-826-6917 or Charlie Matthew, N0XFD, at 713-498-9802.



**Results of the March 3rd
BVARC Amateur License Examination Session
by: John Moore, KK5NU**

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio License Examination session held on Saturday, March 3, 2012 at the Greater Houston Hamfest held at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in Rosenberg, TX. We were joined by the Houston ECHO/K3FL exam team for the morning.

Members of the Active VE Exam Team:

Dennis Dietrich, W5DDD
Franz Laugermann, K3FL
George Ontko, KM5VP

Jeffrey Fussell, KD5VGE
John Moore, KK5NU
Marie Schaer, KD5UJT

Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
Mike Nault, W5OFT

We also had a good number of the attending VE's on our stand-by list to call upon if needed.

Thirty (30) examination elements were administered to twenty five (25) applicants during the course of our three seatings during the day. Three new Technician class licensees, three new and eight additional upgrades to General class, and three upgrades to Amateur Extra class were attained; with the total numbers of elements passed being 20. The overall "pass rate" for the session was 66.67%.

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

Robert T. Armstrong	- KE5KCG	- General
William E. Averyt, Jr.	- K5WEA	- Amateur Extra
George T. Bernard	- KB5ZWV	- General
Dean A. Cervenka	- {KF5OXC}	- General
Jose L. Garcia	- KF5OVN	- General
Robert D. Gardner	- KF5KCO	- General
Robert E. Harrold	- N2TOK	- General
William R. Hasse, Sr.	- KA5IRV	- General
Karen A. Houston	- {KF5OXD}	- General
Benny M. Jones, Jr.	- N5SZN	- General
Robert R. Loesch	- W5GHJ	- Amateur Extra
Robert W. Manning	- KF5NOX	- General
Michael G. McMahon	- {KF5OXE}	- General
Vincent J. Newman	- {KF5OXF}	- Technician
Joe G. Shaddock	- {KF5OXG}	- Technician
Peter R. Swinburne	- {KF5OXH}	- Technician
Wayne R. Vinson	- KE5EAB	- Amateur Extra

Many thanks to all the Team Members, including the Houston Echo/K3FL VE's and our stand-by VE's who volunteer their valuable time and efforts each month.

... 73 ...





MUSEUM SHIP'S WEEKEND NEWS

BVARC'ers!

Mark your calendars for 0000Z June 2 (7PM, June 1, Central Time) through 2359Z June 3 for the 2012 Museum Ships Weekend! This is an annual activity for BVARC and a fun operating event. We plan to be operating from Seawolf Park in Galveston and aboard the USS Cavalla and USS Stewart

There will be a planning meeting immediately following the BVARC Board of Directors meeting on April 5th at Fuddrucker's, 11445 Fountain Lake Dr. in Stafford . All persons interested in participating in the MSWE 2012 event, are invited to the planning meeting. The BOD meeting begins at 7 PM and the MSWE planning meeting will convene immediately afterwards; around 8PM. The burgers are good too.

Come and participate in the planning meeting on April 5th and join us to operate on June 2-3 (June 1st 0700 Central – June 3rd 1900 Central) for the event. Be a part of history, operating from the radio room of a famous WWII submarine or destroyer escort.

73,
Ron, AE5NO
ae5no.ron@gmail.com
www.qrz.com/db/ae5no



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:

12/12 - 25 - Sid, n5zkd
12/19 - 30 - Dwayne, kb5yta
1/2 - 24 - Cam, k5cam
1/9 - 27 - Clint, kf5hdf
1/16 - 27 - Darrell, kc5jar

1/23 - 33 - Pete, kd5qpx
1/30 - 30 - Jerry, kf5eyc
2/6 - 37 - Cam, k5cam
2/13 - 39 - Clint, kf5hdf
2/20 - 26 - Dwayne, kb5yta

2/27 - 38 - Pete, kd5qpx
3/5 - 47 - Cam, k5cam
3/12 - 32 - Clint, kf5hdf
3/19 - - Dwayne, kb5yta
3/26 - 32 - Pete, kd5qpx



2012 Club Officers:

President:
Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z
kmkendrick@gmail.com

Vice President:
Ross Lawler, W5HFF
w5hff@yahoo.com

Corresponding Secretary / Treasurer
Robert Tomlinson, N5JSL
rbtswim@gmail.com

Recording Secretary:
Pete Sauermilch, KD5QPX
kd5qpx@arrl.net

1 Year At-Large Board Member:
Dywane Jones, KB5YTA
dwayneredhonda@gmail.com

2 Year At-Large Board Member:
David Barber, K5NDB
d_barber@att.net

Past President:
Rick Hiller, W5RH
rhiller@sdicgm.com

Club Happenings:

General Meeting

Second Thursday each month, 7:30 PM
Imperial Park Recreation Center,
234 Matlage Way.

Board of Directors Meeting

First Thursday of each month, 7:00 PM
Fuddrucker's, 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

Under 15 CW Net

Tuesday night, 7PM, 3.550 MHz



BVARC EATING SCHEDULE

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

59 DINER, 7:00a.m., SW Freeway outbound service road, near
Kirkwood.

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

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 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>

04/14/2012 | HamEXPO

Location: Belton, TX

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Temple Amateur Radio Club

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

05/05/2012 | Smithville Swapfest 2012

Location: Smithville, TX

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Bastrop County Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.bcarc-hams.org/>

05/18/2012 | Dayton Hamvention

Location: Trotwood, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

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

06/08/2012 | West Gulf Division Convention (Ham-Com)

Location: Plano, TX

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Ham-Com, Inc. & surrounding clubs

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



Monthly Publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.
Serving Amateur Radio for Southwest Houston and Fort Bend County
Club Call sign – KK5W
BVARC Website: <http://www.bvarc.org>
Editor: John Chauvin, K5IZO, k5izo@yahoo.com
Production Team: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, k5cam@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 Imperial Park Recreation Center, 234 Matlage 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 \$200.00.

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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APRIL 2012

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

General Membership Meeting – 7:15PM, Thursday, April 12.

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