



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

MAY 2012

VOLUME 36 ISSUE 5

## BVARC MAY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7:30 PM, Thursday, May 10, 2012

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

### Antenna Systems for the Recently Licensed Ham

*“3 Hams, 3 presentations, 1 subject – Antenna Systems”*  
by

Tom, W5TOM, Pete, KD5QPX and Rick, W5RH

Three, 20 minute, practical presentations in BVARC’s “new Ham” series.  
(Good for you Old Timers too!)

Learn about the cardinal rules of antenna systems and the foundation knowledge of antenna system design from W5RH. Follow these rules and knowledge to build a solid antenna system. See, first hand, W5TOM’s simple, yet effective and efficient installations; Then, have a look at KD5QPX’s simple antennas that work well and are easily deployed.

**W5RH – Understanding the Cardinal Rules of The Ham Radio Antenna System -- What makes up the “system” and why is it a system.**

**W5TOM – Utilizing Your New Found Practical Antenna System Knowledge -- The perils, pitfalls and perks of a real installation.**

**KD5QPX – Deploying Simple Antennas – simply built, easily deployed, these antennas perform well.**



### April Meeting Report

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Joint Meeting of BVARC and Texas DX Society was held on Apr 12 with about 70 eager attendees. This year, we had 4 presentations for the joint meeting:

- Ham Cruise 2011: how to plan your own DXpedition on a cruise ship – The Rumfields – Lance WD5X with the help of his wife Debbie N5DSR
- More Ham Cruising – Bob Hardie W5UQ
- Satellites and Cruising - Fun in the Sun – Allen Mattis N5AFV
- Operating HF QRP from Cruise Ships – Kirk Kendrick KK2Z

A great set of presentations with a commitment to continue our yearly joint meeting in the future!



# The President's Corner

President's Corner

By Kirk Kendrick – KK2Z

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

The joint BVARC/TDXS meeting in April was a big success with lots of discussion on the various ways to operate from a cruise ship. The learnings that Lance WD5X shared from planning the Ham Cruise 2011 rang loud and clear for me – my experiences are to plan AT LEAST a year in advance to try to finish on time.

I really enjoy the challenge of operating from “portable” locations...whether from a local park, a camp site, a mobile trek for Texas QSO Party, or from a cruise ship. I've now done each of those enough times to know that IT IS FUN!! And...it is a challenge! No big towers or even full size dipoles. More skill (to pull the signal from the overpowering noise) and more excitement when it works.

What's your chance to get out and operate portably? Why...Museum Ships Weekend and Field Day in June! Contact the co-chairmen for the events to see what you can do to get involved.

- Museum Ships Weekend – First full weekend in June  
Contact Ron K5HM or Bob N5JSL.
- Field Day 2012 – the Last full weekend in June  
Contact Frostie K5LBU or Matt Tatro

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



**MSWE 2012**  
**June 2 0000Z – June 3 2359Z**  
**OR**  
**June 1 1900 Central – June 3 1659 Central**  
**Seawolf Park , Galveston , Tx**

The annual Museum Ships weekend is approaching. We are hoping to make things better for this year and we are off to a good start. So far we have 43 club members and others who have volunteered to spend time at Seawolf assist. Get your name on the list and be a part of living history!

Saturday lunch will be provided by **River Oaks Car Stereo**. Big thanks to Eddie Runner, NU5K for the continued support of this event.

We will be setting up on Friday about Noon. Tear down will be Sunday afternoon. If you can lend a hand with set up or tear down, please send an e-mail to Bill Stone, WS5H.

If you would like to sign up as an operator for this years' event, contact Bill Stone, WS5H at [dragntow@wt.net](mailto:dragntow@wt.net). If you plan to come down, be sure you have sunscreen, if you are prone to sunburn.

To make this a success, we are in need of some logistical items for the event.

1- Laptop computer with either XP or Win 7 or Vista - Have 4 already; need 1 for backup

2 Large Tarps to cover equipment in case of bad weather

Generator

First Aid Kit

Fans - 2

Extension cords – assorted, couple of 50 Footers

Power Strips – Several

Camp Chairs – Several

Snacks

Soft Drinks, Water, Iced Tea

If you can donate or lend any of these items, please let me know, so we do not have to purchase them at club expense. Borrowed items should be clearly labeled with the owners name and/or call sign so it can be returned. They WILL be returned promptly.

73,  
Ron, K5HM  
[k5hm.ron@gmail.com](mailto:k5hm.ron@gmail.com)  
[www.qrz.com/db/k5hm](http://www.qrz.com/db/k5hm)



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USS Stewart DE-238

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## TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

Join your fellow BVARCers at a Skeeters baseball game. The Skeeters is the new minor league baseball team located in Sugar Land, by the sugar mill, not far from our meeting location. They have a brand new stadium which apparently is a sight to behold. Go to their website for more information at: <http://sugarlandskeeters.com/>

Art, KE5OBY has secured a block of 20 seats for June 9, 7:05 PM. Tickets are \$12 payable to Art. His contact info is on the BVARC website.





## Minutes of April 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at Fudrucker'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.); Dwayne Jones, KB5YTA (2yr At-Large Dir.); David Barber, K5NDB (1yr At-Large Dir.); Eddie Runner, NU5K (Webmaster); Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; Bill Stone, WS5H; Norma Stone; KE5NDN; Billy Jones Jr., N5EVD; Angel Abbott-Jones; KC5KRV; Mike Hardwick, N5VCX; Jerry Muller, KF5EYC.

1. Minutes for the March 2012 meeting were approved as distributed by email and as in the April 2012 newsletter.
2. Financials:
  - 2.1. Treasurer's Report was presented to the Board. The Board found no problems with said report.
  - 2.2. Greater Houston Hamfest 2012: Financial numbers remain the same as last month. The fairground should be refunding out deposit soon.
3. Schedule:
  - 3.1. March: Joint meeting with the Texas DX Society.
  - 3.2. No other meeting topics scheduled.
  - 3.3. A General Membership Meeting topic was received through email requesting that we have at least one meeting devoted to antenna building.
4. Old Business:
  - 4.1. Greater Houston Hamfest 2012: Now considered a closed topic.
  - 4.2. ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund: Should be added to the BVARC web page that we are a donor.
  - 4.3. Computer Projector: One device purchased for club meeting use.
  - 4.4. PCs:
    - 4.4.1. Club to purchase units for Field Day as decided in the "Wish List".
    - 4.4.2. Scott Medbury (KC5FBA) has donated two PCs for use at Field Day.
5. New business:
  - 5.1. Bill Stone:
    - 5.1.1. Reported the he received two QSL cards for the special event call W5H used in 2011.
    - 5.1.2. Museum Ships Weekend:
      - 5.1.2.1. Wanted to know if board would donate to the Cavalla Historical Foundation.
      - 5.1.2.2. The Board responded that \$400 has been budgeted for 2012 for the BVARC activities.
      - 5.1.2.3. The Board decided to gift the Cavalla Historical Foundation with \$150 and instructed the treasurer to cut a check.
  - 5.2. Field Day: Charles Frost and Matthew Tatro have volunteered to co-chair Field Day. The board deferred any other action until the May meeting.
  - 5.3. 2013 Greater Houston Hamfest: Kendrick reported that John Charvin discovered that the fairgrounds have already rented for 2013 the space we normally use for GHH. After an extensive search for alternatives by several members, the recommendation is to move the 2013 date to March 23<sup>rd</sup> and stay at the fairgrounds. The board action was to approve the expenditure of \$2300 for the deposit.
  - 5.4. Dwayne Jones proposed to the board that BVARC go to electronic distribution of the newsletter. The discussion that followed is summarized that it raises more problems than it solves and has been discussed on average every 4 years with the same outcome.
6. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX



## THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

### February check-ins

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

03/28/12, K5LKJ (NCS), K5HM, WS5H, W5TKZ, K5NDB, W5RH, WA5CYI, K5LJ, N5CPA, N5DTT, AA5OA, N5GDW, K5IZO, AF5T, AA0ST (Friendswood), WB5PNL (Beach City), KC5JAR.

(17 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 106, SN = 63, A = 12, K = 1

04/04/12, K5LKJ (NCS), WS5H, W5TKZ, K5NDB, N5CPA, AA5OA, K5LJ, AF5T, WB5PNL (Beach City), AE5YY, K0NM, W5RH, AA0ST (Friendswood), KE5OBY.

(14 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 104, SN = 62, A = 4, K = 2

04/11/12, K5LKJ (NCS), WS5H, AA5OA, AE5YY, W5RH, K5NDB, W5TKZ, K5DLL (Deer Park), K0NM, AF5T, K5LJ, N5CPA, K5IZO (R), K5LBU, N5DTT, AA0ST (Friendswood), KE5OBY (T), WA5CYI, WB5PNL (Beach City), WB5KTF.

(20 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 93, SN = 24, A = 8, K = 1

04/18/12, K5LKJ (NCS), N5CPA, K5NDB, W5TKZ, K5DLL (Deer Park), KE5OBY (T), K5LJ, N5DTT, WB5BYR, WA5CYI, K5IZO, WN5A, AA0ST (Friendswood), K0NM, AF5T, W5RH, WS5H.

(17 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 114, SN = 78, A = 8, K = 1

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

Thanks. Regards.\_  
John C. Whiteman, K5LKJ



## BVARC CW Net

**Tuesday 7PM**

**3.550 MHz**

**--Note the name change --**

**--mostly under 15 WPM, but at any speed you desire to send--**

Join us for a fun filled 30 to 45 minutes of working the CW mode. We welcome new folks with open ears, 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. NCS sends the pre-amble, then calls for check-ins "QNI?".... and then, after checkins, each station is called "QTT" to invite them to transmit a short greeting or message.

Net Control Station (NCS) is Rick, W5RH, but some nights WS5H, Bill, or Roy, W5TKZ, take over, so listen carefully right at 7 PM. Frequency is on 3550 KHz (+/- 3 KHz pending QRM).

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.



# River Oaks Car Stereo

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



## HAM RADIO IS BACK IN HOUSTON AGAIN!

Ham Radio -Emergency Strobe Lights- Police Scanners-Car Stereo  
Car Alarms-Radar Detectors- Bluetooth Hands Free Phone Kits-IPOD Integration

Eddie - NU5K  
Eddie Jr. - KB5OBB  
Patricia - K5PLR  
Dwayne - KB5YTA  
Angelo - KF5MJV  
Darrell - KC5JAR

[www.houstonhamradio.com](http://www.houstonhamradio.com)  
[www.riveroakscarstereo.com](http://www.riveroakscarstereo.com)  
[www.installer.com](http://www.installer.com)

Yes, we can install Ham radio in your car!



## Balloon Launch Team Events

We didn't wire anything up during dinner, but plans were made for the simultaneous flights of BLT-29 and BLT-30 from Lake Livingston before dark on May 19th. The payloads will be almost identical APRS units, using W5ACM and KT5TK callsigns. The balloons will be Totex 800 types. The goal is to test batteries and insulation, so we may or may not get any serious float distance, but we are hoping to collect some serious data during the flight. We hope to have two boats for launching and perhaps a third for some good photos. For those of you that made it to the launch of BLT-28, you may have noticed that barely-buoyant balloons have some issues close to the ground... Get ready to track!

Yes, we are planning on an August launch with lots of TOYZ, and yes, we are planning to Target Tokyo on December 15th.

More info later, as it becomes available!

To The Edge Of Space!

Andy W5ACM





## A Visit with RJA

by Rick Hiller -- W5RH

Our friend and fellow BVARC'er, Bill Pearson, W5RJA, moved from Houston quite a few years ago. At a retirement community in Schulenburg he set up his HF antennas and shack. He talked to us week after week on the Rag Chew Net. We all enjoyed hearing his voice. More recently, he, and his wife Lillian, moved further from us to Round Rock (just north of Austin). We got him operating on 2 meters at this location and were working on an HF solution when he took a fall. Late last year he dislocated his hip and was placed in a care facility -- just down the road from his new Round Rock home.

John, K5LKJ and I went and saw Bill after the Austin Summerfest in August 2011, but we had not been to see him since. So, it was doubly important that we make the trip. At 6AM on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> we headed to see Bill. First, stopping at his apartment to visit with Lillian and their son, Chuck, a former 60's Novice Ham himself. We then went to the care facility where Bill was convalescing. He was ever so glad to see us, as we were of him. Looking as spry as a 90 year old Ham in a wheel chair could look, he met us at the door with his typical smiling face and good humor.

The week before this trip, the good folks on the 80 meter BVARC Rag Chew Net all spoke a greeting directed to Bill during the net. I edited them down to an 8 minute mp3 file which we played for Bill. Over and over he heard the Rag Chew net check-ins say hello and best wishes, 73, etc. It was a bit overwhelming for him. (Not my intent). But he REALLY enjoyed hearing HF again....QRN, QRM and all. He took us to his room to show us his QSL card collection (A few weeks back I put out a note for folks to send him a QSL card with a get well message and many hams all over the country took up the task). He had quite a collection of cards. Thank you to all that sent him a card or note.

John was impressed with the fact that Bill knew everybody in the place. Their name, where they came from, what they did and what their particular problem was. Just Bill being Bill, concerned about his fellow interns. But, you know those places where old folks are interned to recover....interaction is key to keeping their spirits high. Bill was the biggest cheerleader of them all.

So, we had a picture taken (below) to document the visit, shook hands with Bill and off we went to return to Houston (and a treat of a Hinze's Bar-B-Que lunch in Columbus). A good turn accomplished to help a fellow Ham.

If you would like to send a note or QSL card to Bill, you can do so at the following address:

Mr. Bill Pearson  
c/o Hearthstone Health Center  
401 Oakwood Blvd. Room # 323  
Round Rock, TX 78681

He would love hearing from you.  
73...Rick – W5RH





**Results of the April 10th  
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, April 10, 2012 at HCC's Scarcella Science & Technology Building here in Stafford.

**MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:**

Dennis Dietrich, W5DDD  
Larry Jacobson, K5LJ  
John Moore, KK5NU  
George Ontko, KM5VP  
Robert Tomlinson, N5JSL

Eight examination elements were administered during the evening to six applicants. Five new Technician class and one upgrade to General class licenses were attained; with the total number of elements passed being 6. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 75%.

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

Garland W. Calhoun	- {KF5PPJ}	- Technician
Walter J. Gudas, Jr.	- {KF5PPI}	- Technician
Ronald W. Fawcett	- KD5CDM	- General
Lorina D. Fawcett	- {KF5PPH}	- Technician
Paul D. Makinen	- {KF5PPF}	- Technician
Michael S. Woods	- {KF5PPG}	- 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 ...



**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:

1/16 - 27 - Darrell, kc5jar	2/20 - 26 - Dwayne, kb5yta	3/26 - 32 - Pete, kd5qpx
1/23 - 33 - Pete, kd5qpx	2/27 - 38 - Pete, kd5qpx	4/2 - 31 - Cam, k5cam
1/30 - 30 - Jerry, kf5eyc	3/5 - 47 - Cam, k5cam	4/9 - 42 - Clint, kf5hdf
2/6 - 37 - Cam, k5cam	3/12 - 32 - Clint, kf5hdf	4/16 - 31 - Dwayne, kb5yta
2/13 - 39 - Clint, kf5hdf	3/19 - - Dwayne, kb5yta	4/23 - 43 - Pete, kd5qpx

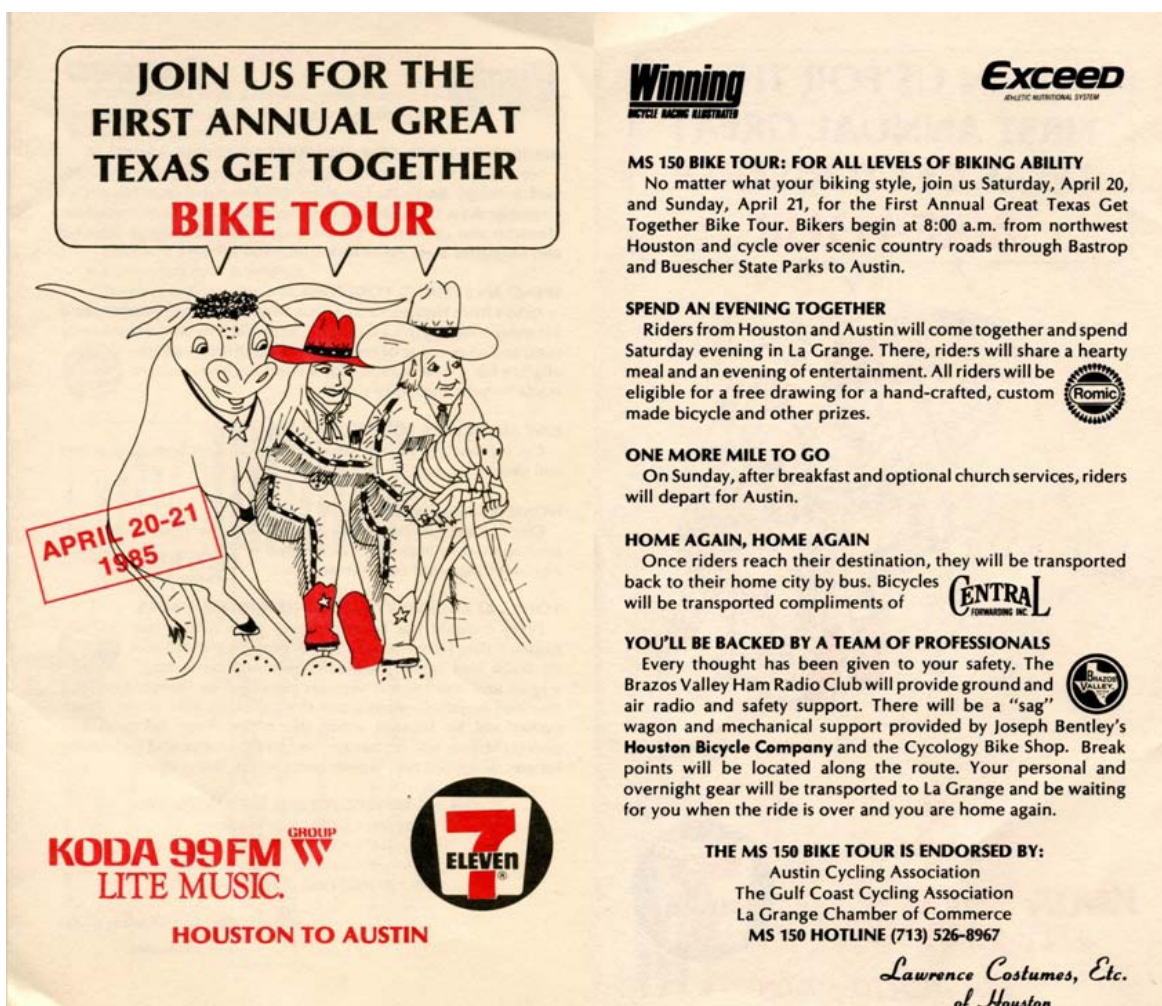


## BVARC Historical Vignettes – BVARC and the First MS 150

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

Probably the single most long-running public service event worked by members of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio club is the MS 150 Houston to Austin bicycle ride. Anyone who has been a member of BVARC for more than a few years knows that Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, Darrell Kirk, KC5JAR, and many others have put a lot effort into this long-running event.

The first year the MS 150 was held was 1985 and BVARC was there. The brochure for the 1985 MS 150 states “Every thought has been given to your safety. The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club will provide ground and air radio and safety support.” Thank you to Steve Gottlieb, WA5OEN, for providing a copy of the 1985 MS 150 brochure.



The brochure is a promotional flyer for the 1985 MS 150 Bike Tour. It features a central illustration of a cowboy on a horse, a woman on a bicycle, and a bull. A speech bubble above them says "JOIN US FOR THE FIRST ANNUAL GREAT TEXAS GET TOGETHER BIKE TOUR". A red stamp on the illustration reads "APRIL 20-21 1985". The text on the right side of the brochure lists details about the tour, including dates, location, and sponsors. Logos for "Winning", "Exceed", "Romac", "Central", and "7-Eleven" are visible. At the bottom left, it says "KODA 99FM GROUP LITE MUSIC. HOUSTON TO AUSTIN". At the bottom right, it says "THE MS 150 BIKE TOUR IS ENDORSED BY:" followed by a list of organizations and "Lawrence Costumes, Etc. of Houston".

**JOIN US FOR THE FIRST ANNUAL GREAT TEXAS GET TOGETHER BIKE TOUR**

**APRIL 20-21 1985**

**KODA 99FM GROUP LITE MUSIC. HOUSTON TO AUSTIN**

**Winning**  
BIKE RACING ALTERNATIVE

**Exceed**  
ANLYTIC NUTRITIONAL SYSTEM

**MS 150 BIKE TOUR: FOR ALL LEVELS OF BIKING ABILITY**  
No matter what your biking style, join us Saturday, April 20, and Sunday, April 21, for the First Annual Great Texas Get Together Bike Tour. Bikers begin at 8:00 a.m. from northwest Houston and cycle over scenic country roads through Bastrop and Buescher State Parks to Austin.

**SPEND AN EVENING TOGETHER**  
Riders from Houston and Austin will come together and spend Saturday evening in La Grange. There, riders will share a hearty meal and an evening of entertainment. All riders will be eligible for a free drawing for a hand-crafted, custom made bicycle and other prizes.

**ONE MORE MILE TO GO**  
On Sunday, after breakfast and optional church services, riders will depart for Austin.

**HOME AGAIN, HOME AGAIN**  
Once riders reach their destination, they will be transported back to their home city by bus. Bicycles will be transported compliments of

**YOU'LL BE BACKED BY A TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS**  
Every thought has been given to your safety. The Brazos Valley Ham Radio Club will provide ground and air radio and safety support. There will be a "sag" wagon and mechanical support provided by Joseph Bentley's **Houston Bicycle Company** and the Cycology Bike Shop. Break points will be located along the route. Your personal and overnight gear will be transported to La Grange and be waiting for you when the ride is over and you are home again.

**THE MS 150 BIKE TOUR IS ENDORSED BY:**  
Austin Cycling Association  
The Gulf Coast Cycling Association  
La Grange Chamber of Commerce  
MS 150 HOTLINE (713) 526-8967

*Lawrence Costumes, Etc.  
of Houston*

1985 MS 150 Brochure – Note BVARC logo in lower right

2012 Club Officers:

President:  
Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z  
[kmkendrick@gmail.com](mailto:kmkendrick@gmail.com)

Vice President:  
Ross Lawler, W5HFF  
[w5hff@yahoo.com](mailto:w5hff@yahoo.com)

Corresponding Secretary / Treasurer  
Robert Tomlinson, N5JSL  
[rbtswim@gmail.com](mailto:rbtswim@gmail.com)

Recording Secretary:  
Pete Sauermilch, KD5QPX  
[kd5qpx@arrl.net](mailto:kd5qpx@arrl.net)

1 Year At-Large Board Member:  
Dywane Jones, KB5YTA  
[dwayneredhonda@gmail.com](mailto:dwayneredhonda@gmail.com)

2 Year At-Large Board Member:  
David Barber, K5NDB  
[d\\_barber@att.net](mailto:d_barber@att.net)

Past President:  
Rick Hiller, W5RH  
[rhiller@sdicgm.com](mailto: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](mailto: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>

### **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](mailto:k5izo@yahoo.com)  
Production Team: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, [k5cam@arri.net](mailto: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](mailto:w5hff@yahoo.com) or see the BVARC website: [www.bvarc.org](http://www.bvarc.org)

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

**FIRST CLASS POSTAGE**

General Membership Meeting – 7:30 – May 10, 2012

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