



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

OCTOBER 2012

VOLUME 36 ISSUE 10

BVARC October 2012 MEETING

In lieu of the normal meeting on October 11, 2012, all are invited to attend....



ADVANCED SKYWARN™ **Severe Weather Spotter Training**

Thursday October 11, 2012
6:30—9:30 PM

Sugar Land Imperial Park
Recreation Center
234 Matlage Way, Sugar Land Texas 77478

SKYWARN™ is a training program sponsored by the Houston-Galveston National Weather Service Office in conjunction with Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management.

ADVANCED SKYWARN™ This class is NOT for the novice spotter. It is recommended that spotters go through two (if possible) basic spotter training sessions before attempting the advanced training material. Spotters should be comfortable with the basic concepts of storm structure and storm spotting. They should have a desire to learn the latest concepts of tornado and severe thunderstorm behavior.

SKYWARN TRAINING IS FOR EVERYONE !!

SKYWARN™ Volunteers will learn:

- Why types of storms develop
- Weather patterns conducive to severe weather
- Processes necessary for tornado development
- The impact of wind shear on storm behavior



September Meeting Report

Many thanks to Rick W5RH, Ross W5HFF, and Pete KD5QPX for being the Panel of Elmers at our open Q&A forum. Our speaker (Marc Abramson from ABR Industries) was unable to attend and will be rescheduled for 2013.

President's Corner for Oct 2012

By Kirk Kendrick – KK2Z

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

As I asked last month, have you had an HF QSO in the last month? How about 449? That's how many Pete KD5QPX and I had as rovers (that is, mobile operators) in the Texas QSO Party. We drove...and drove...and drove for over 800 miles in the two days through more than 30 counties. What a rush!! Best year ever for the KK5W station in the contest.

I also have HF in my vehicle that I drive every day to work. Some days I tune into 20m or 40m and listen to CW ... if I can find operators at a slow enough rate for my ears. Or I listen to DX stations. Unfortunately, the rules at my job do not allow the operation of ham radio, cell phones, or any other portable communication device while on the job.

Why operate HF mobile? Or portable? Until you've had the thrill of a 2-way call to Tasmania while going to Starbucks, you may not understand. Or the thrill of overcoming all the challenges of operating from a noisy, moving environment with a too-short vertical antenna while dodging mule deer in the road...or running a pileup from the back seat in the rain...or sitting in a pristine park watching nature while operating from a picnic table.

Whether QRP or QRO...you'll learn to listen better...operate better...and prepare for emergency opportunities "outside the shack". Try it!! You may like it!!!

Remember, we don't have a regular BVARC meeting in October. Instead, join the Advanced Skywarn training on 11 Oct. But make sure and join us at the November general membership meeting for the election and the annual Chili dinner. Speaking of Chili, if there are any aspiring Chili masters in the crowd...drop me a line at kk2z@arrl.net or 281-639-5088 and YOU can be the Chili Master of 2012.

And, as I remind you each month, join BVARC on the 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.
- 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



Breaking News! **The Z60K Mystery**

Ah, the good old days when men were men and call signs were whatever you wanted. That is apparently what happened in Kosovo.

This tiny country recently declared itself independent from Serbia in 2008 for reasons we are all probably are aware. Without waiting for full diplomatic recognition, the government of Kosovo assigned itself the Z6 prefix and has issued several amateur radio licenses.

The assignment of a prefix goes hand in hand with the recognition of the sovereignty of a new state by the United Nations. Today, 92 UN member states recognize Kosovo as a new independent state, including the United States, Britain, France, and 22 European countries. Because of Russia and China, nations with veto power in the Security Council of the United Nations, Kosovo can not currently be accepted among the countries of the UN.

The procedure for assigning a prefix for amateur radio goes hand in hand with the Civil Aviation Authority. The ITU works in tandem with the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization). By international agreement, aircraft tail numbers use the same prefix as radio call signs.

So what is the status of Z60K? It is yet to be determined if the ITU will recognize the Z6 call signs as legal, since Kosovo is not yet fully recognized as a sovereign state. It may ultimately be recognized as a DXCC entity if the prefix is recognized by the IARU and ITU. Or it may be assigned a new prefix and the Z6 prefix returned to the unused category.

Whatever happens, any QSL card from Z6 land will certainly be a novelty if nothing else.

Reporting from the Dark Side of The Force,
Ron, K5HM

Minutes of Sep 6th, 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 7:14 PM on September 6th, 2012 at Fudrucker's, 11445 Fountain Lake Drive, Stafford, TX. Attending were: Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z (Pres.); Ross Lawler, W5HFF (V.P.); Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.); Dwayne Jones, KB5YTA (2yr At-Large Dir.); Rick Hiller, W5RH (Past Pres.); David Barber, K5NDB (1yr At-Large Dir.); Eddie Runner, NU5K (Webmaster); Suzanne Runner, KF5GWZ; Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; Mike Hardwick, N5VCX; Jerry Muller, KF5EYC; Mark Lawler;

1. Minutes for the August 2012 meeting were approved as previously distributed by email. Eddie Runner commented that the new net manager was incorrectly identified in the minutes published in the newsletter. The newsletter stated the new manager is Teresa Fenner, KF5QNO; when it should have been Theresa Williams, KE5MUX. The official distribution to the board members had already been corrected. For unknown reasons, the newsletter contained a previous revision of the minutes.
2. Treasurer's Report was presented to and approved by the Board.
3. New business:
 - 3.1. Hiller observed that something was not "right" with the numbers. He had talked with Tomlinson. Tomlinson asked for some help with Quick Books. Hiller volunteered to help. It appears to be a matter of Quick Book categories into which things are entered.
 - 3.2. VP Report, September Meeting:
 - 3.2.1. September:
 - 3.2.1.1. Lawler reviewed coming meeting that speaker backed out and will now will be Elmer Night. The other proposed topics have never jelled.
 - 3.2.1.2. Mentor Night: Need something on which to write.
 - 3.2.1.3. Counterpoint: Hardwick volunteered to contact Centerpoint. His idea was a demonstration of what happens when things go wrong and contact power lines. This is a standard demo. for Centerpoint.
 - 3.2.2. October: Advanced Sky Warn
 - 3.2.3. November: Chile and Election: Up for election are; VP, 1 Year Board Director, and Treasurer.
 - 3.2.4. December: Home Brew
 - 3.2.5. January: Banquet
 - 3.2.6. February: N5VCX and public service event communications
 - 3.3. Balloon Launch August 28th: BVARC's donation was well received by launch team.
 - 3.4. Cavalla Work Day: This coming Saturday is a Cavalla work-day. Kendrick asked if board had a problem with BVARC publicizing Cavalla events. Response, no.
 - 3.5. Kendrick: Asked of anyone had ideas about banquet location, send email to him.
 - 3.6. Mitchell: On the web page, only Runner and Mitchell update coming event calendar.
4. Old Business:
 - 4.1. Update Web with September and October meeting changes.
 - 4.2. Hamfest: September 20, kick off meeting
 - 4.3. Astronomy Day: Park said no to a balloon launch. We will not try to receive the RF sounds of Jupiter.
 - 4.4. Texas Navy Certificate: Request has come in for Texas QSO Party activating all five ships and BVARC issuing Texas Navy Certificates. Lexington will activate. Motion made to table for 2012.
5. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX



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:

6/18 - 36 - Dwayne, kb5yta	7/23 - 29 - Pete, kd5qpx	8/27 - 36 - Pete, kd5qpx
6/25 - 34 - Cam, k5cam	7/30 - 32 - Jerry, kf5eyc	9/3 - 32 - Cam, k5cam
7/2 - 42 - Cam, k5cam	8/6 - 22 - Pete, kd6qpx	9/10 - 33 - Pete, kd5qpx
7/9 - 41 - Clint, kf5hdf	8/13 - 27 - Cam, k5cam	9/17 - 21 - Dewayne, kb5yta
7/16 - 29 - Ron, k5nm	8/20 - 25 - Dewayne, kb5yta	9/24 - 33 - Pete, kd5qpx



The Weekly BVARC CW Net Ends

QST QST QST.....After a good run of 114 nets, it has been decided to close down the BVARC Tuesday evening CW Net. The nets' "Swan song" was Tuesday night, September 25, 2012.

Starting out in 2010 as the "BVARC Under 15 WPM CW Net", it was a net whose mission was to encourage the use of CW within the club and get folks using the mode on the air. Conceived by Tom, W5TOM and Rick, W5RH, the net was very loosely structured with simple inter-station logistics. The first nets had upwards of 10 check-ins.

Many thanks to all of the folks who checked in religiously, like Roy -- W5TKZ, David -- K5NDB, Bill -- WS5H, and Nizar -- K0NM. Thanks to all of the other occasional check ins like Dave -- AF5T, John -- K5IZO, John -- K5LKJ, Cam -- K5CAM, and Ross -- W5HFF and other BVARC members occasionally. The Net coordinator and main NCS (Net Control Station) was Rick -- W5RH, although Roy, W5TKZ and Bill, WS5H filled in as NCS from time to time. Their help in running the net each week was sincerely appreciated.

There is always a reflection when something is shut down. Nizar, K0NM, put it succinctly, "Well, it was a lot of fun while it lasted. We created a lot of interest in CW in the club and got some people who enjoy CW. Some do not enjoy it(CW), but can work DX without any fears. So, it was a great thing."

Currently within BVARC, there is a flurry of club activity toward some newer hams learning the Morse Code and ultimately working contests in the CW mode. Let's hope that this does pan out and there is substantial future CW activity within the club to warrant another CW Net down the log. Morse Code is another language and using it on the air in the CW mode is fun and exciting. Whether you are rag chewing or contesting, there is a place for the CW mode.

Learning the Morse Code and then putting it into practice takes a long time dedication of the practitioner. It's hard work in the initial phases of learning, but in the end, the satisfaction attained is worth the intense up front effort. A few of us regulars on the CW Net can attest to this. We are having fun with Morse Code/CW now and have a great appreciation for those folks that can speak it with fluency and ease.

TNX ES 73 SK DE W5RH (dit dit)

Rick Hiller -- W5RH



BVARC Participation in the Texas QSO Party

For a number of years, BVARC has shown tremendous support for the Texas QSO Party. This at least includes a) BVARC pays for 4 of the plaques that are presented each year, b) Texas QSO Party has a table at the Greater Houston Hamfest, c) BVARC had the TQP Guru, Chuck Sanders, NO5W, as it's featured speaker at a general membership meeting, but most importantly d) BVARC has had many operators participate. This year BVARC had no less than 16 participants making anywhere from 1 to 449 QSOs. These include, in no particular order, at least KK5W (KD5QPX & KK2W as ops) making the 449 QSOs, W5RH, KF5EYC, K5NDB, NT5SM, N5DTT, K5CAM, WB5FEA, AF5BV, K5TKZ, K0NM, WS5H, K5NGU, K5HTB and K5IZO.

Remember to submit your scores, whether you had 449 or 1 QSOs, to the official website, www.txqp.net, and be sure to designate BVARC as your club affiliation on the form.

Congratulations to these operators and any others that participated.

BVARC Historical Vignettes – Project Beacon Back in the Spotlight

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

Project Beacon was a scientific investigation conducted by a group of BVARC members in 1993 to gather information on the possibility that the active ground subsidence associated with faults in the Houston metropolitan area might affect reception of low frequency non-directional beacons (NDBs) located near airports in the city. Research conducted at Stanford University at that time had documented ultra-low frequency electromagnetic emissions prior to and associated with the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and a number of us decided to see if anything similar was occurring in Houston. Even though we do not have earthquakes in Houston there is movement along a number of faults that results in subsidence of the ground.

After several weeks of discussion at the BVARC Saturday morning breakfast, it was decided that we would monitor four Houston area NDBs that were located near active faults. The beacon monitoring was conducted for a one-year period from February 1993 through February 1994. The primary monitors were Allen Mattis N5AFV, Ralph Cheek KB5DNT (now KL7AX), Bud King N5UOG (now K5CEK), TJ Layton KB5TIB, and "Scanner Jack" Roberts KB5TMY. Over a dozen other BVARC members served as backup monitors during the project. The monitors recorded signal strength and frequency of the four NDBs twice a day for an entire year.

Once the monitoring period was over, it was time to analyze the data that had been collected. A methodical look through the data indicated that there were six episodes of apparent frequency shift observed by the monitors. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) maintains a network of extensometers to record subsidence in the Houston metropolitan area, and an examination of the extensometer records indicated that four of the six episodes of apparent frequency shift occurred after periods of several days or more with no movement on the extensometers. If there is no movement along the faults stress will build up. The other two episodes of apparent frequency shift appeared to correlate with the occurrence of a 4.2 magnitude earthquake and a 3.0 magnitude aftershock 175 miles west-southwest of Houston in Atascosa County, Texas.

The program at the December 8, 1994 BVARC meeting was entitled "Project Beacon – A scientific investigation conducted by amateur radio operators." Approximately 75 to 80 persons attended the meeting, including almost all of the BVARC members who had served as monitors for Project Beacon. Questions and discussion continued long after the prepared presentation ended. The material presented was eventually published in the Houston Geological Society Bulletin (April, 1995) in an article entitled "Possible Effects of Active Faulting on Low Frequency Radio Propagation, Houston, Texas Metropolitan Area."

In August 2012 I was quite surprised to receive an e-mail from Jim Pederson who lives in the San Francisco Bay area inquiring if I was the person who had written papers on Project Beacon. Jim is conducting experiments on the ultra-low frequencies below the NDB band that was used by Project Beacon to see if he can document earthquake precursor signatures in seismically active California. As a result Jim had a number of questions to ask me regarding Project Beacon. The bottom line here is that the Project Beacon work done by BVARC members almost 20 years ago is back in the spotlight.



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Radio Sport Events of Note for October 2012

Editor's Note: Submitted by Ronn Litt, K5HM

Even if you are not into the rough and tumble of contest competition, these events give you a chance to work some rare locations that are impossible to find at other times.

OCEANA DX CONTEST

PHONE: 0800Z Oct 6 to 0800Z Oct 7 Phone

CW: 0800Z Oct 13 – 0800Z Oct 14.

Info at: <http://www.oceaniadxcontest.com/>



This is your chance to fill in your DXCC list or WAZ for those obscure little places in the Pacific Ocean. It is also a good tune up for the big kahuna of all contests, the CQ World Wide, which follows at the end of October and November.

The Oceania DX contest has been around since the mid 1920s and was known previously as the VK/ZL Contest. Activity has increased in recent years due to promotional efforts by the joint Australia/New Zealand [Contest Committee](#). A list of valid DXCC Entities for Oceania can be found on the DXCC entity list at http://www.arl.org/files/file/DXCC/2012%20DXCC%20Current_H.pdf

CQ Worldwide DX Contest

SSB: October 27 - 28

CW: November 24 - 25

Starts 0:00:00 UTC Saturday Ends 23:59:59 UTC Sunday

Info at: www.cqww.com

Here is the big one! Probably the biggest Radio Sport Event of the year. If you are into marathon contesting or just want to add a few new countries to your list of confirmed, this is it baby! Generally speaking, if it has a valid prefix and if an antenna can be erected on the spot, it will be on the air during this contest.

State QSO Parties.

NO Pressure! These are fun events that help you develop your contesting skills. If you are a county hunter, QSO Parties give you a chance to pick up some rare counties where there is generally no human or amateur activity; like New York!

State QSO Parties in October to check out:

California <http://www.cqp.org/Rules.html>

Arizona <http://www.azqsoparty.org/rules.html>

Pennsylvania <http://www.nittany-arc.net/pagsorules.html>

New York <http://www.nyqp.org/rules.php>

Illinois <http://www.w9awe.org/ILQP%202011%20Rules.pdf>

Special Event Stations in October to watch for:

Oct 20th - 73rd Anniversary of the Coast Guard Auxiliary; Various Locations If you're a former "Coastie" or a boater, you know the value of what these guys do all year. Help celebrate their 73rd anniversary by contacting the 16 stations that will be on the air. Each will offer a special QSL or certificate. They will make a good addition to your wallpaper. Each will be operating on their own schedule, so check out the Special Event Station web page at <http://www.arl.org/special-event-stations> just enter the date in the search query.

October 20th - **Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air**; Various locations. Are you into scouting or does your son or community group sponsor a Boy Scout troop? Then this weekend is a time for you to get on the air and support the Scouting movement. Visit the Special Event Station web page at: <http://www.arl.org/special-event-stations> just enter the date in the search query.

That's it for this month. I'll be back in November.

Waldo, WOUKD

Editor's Adder: **Beginner CW Friendly events this month:**

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon (24 hours) - 7PM (CDT) Saturday, Oct. 12 to Sunday, 7PM.

SKCC Straight Key Sprint (2 hours) – 7-9PM CDT, Tuesday, Oct. 23.

Get info in both events at: <http://www.skccgroup.com/>

There are a few things worth pointing out:

1. For any SKCC event, you need to use a mechanical key, without a keyer. A straight key or a bug is legal.
2. The SKCC has suggested frequencies to hang around. As this event isn't quite as big as Field Day, look around a few KHz about the suggested frequencies.

3. They are pretty good at getting you a SKCC number quickly. Send for it now and there's a very good chance you can get it before the event. If you don't have a number, you simply send "none" instead.
4. In the spirit of camaraderie and helping newbies get on CW, they ask that you send a real RST and not a default 599. Though rag chewing isn't common (it is a "contest" - ha, ha), a casual comment in harmony with the laid back atmosphere is OK.



**Results of the September 11th
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, September 11, 2012 at HCC's Scarcella Science & Technology Building here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Dennis Dietrich, W5DDD	Jeffery Fussell, KD5VGE
Larry Jacobson, K5LJ	John Moore, KK5NU

Eleven examination elements were administered during the evening to nine applicants. One new Technician, one new General and six upgrades to Amateur Extra class license were attained, with the total number of elements passed being 9. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 81.8%.

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

Henry C. Blassingame, III	- WB5FEA	- Amateur Extra
Wesley P. Felter	- {KF5RZU}	- Technician
Paul H. Joki	- {KF5RZV}	- General
James C. Mayes	- KE5QDM	- Amateur Extra
Harold E. Mignola	- K5HDM	- Amateur Extra
Matthew N. Tatrow	- K5NGU	- Amateur Extra
Nathan Y. Vessy	- N5NYV	- Amateur Extra
James S. Wright	- K1FUN	- Amateur Extra

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-



2012 BVARC Elections – November Meeting

Elections for replacement officers on BVARC's Board of Directors will be held at our November 8th meeting, along with our annual Chili Supper. Offices that are open for election this year are **Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, 2 Year At Large Member and 1 Year At Large Member** (filling the Past Presidents slot). President – Kirk – KK2Z, Recording Secretary – Pete – KD5QPX and "At Large" Board member – David – K5NDB will remain in place for 2013.

Details on the election process, the offices and their obligations can be found in the BVARC By-Laws on the BVARC web site.

BVARC is an excellent club with quite an active membership base. We need to keep it that way, so I am asking you to consider running for an office in the November BVARC Club elections. BVARC needs you to step up.

For those new folks, consider this -- it is not a whole lot of time that you have to spend working on this, as there is a great core team of folks in place. We'd love for you to join us.

For you older members, and even those that held a BOD position in the past, please consider running again. The structure of BVARC has changed for the positive and we are again gaining membership and moving forward.

If you would like to review your options to run, talk about an officers' duty, etc. please give me a call or an e-mail at my contact information below.

e-mail: rhiller@sdicgm.com	Rick Hiller – W5RH
Work/daytime phone: 713-278-6310	Chairman --election committee
Cell Phone: 832-474-3713	

The 2012 KK5W Road Trip:

Again KK5W went on the road for the Texas QSO Party. This year KK2Z and KD5QPX covered 30 counties, worked 55 Texas counties, 34 states, and Switzerland. We drove 811 miles. We will claim 111,536 points. Using the IRS mileage rate of 55.5¢/mile and the cost of a motel room, that comes to about 197 points/\$. We have no idea the cost of drinks and munchies.

It was a very different road experience compared to 2011. Two pictures below show the same section of Highway 377 between Junction and Mason. The forty mile an hour cross-wind is not obvious in the right picture and it was taken between the waves of rain varying light to heavy. The drive became really interesting after dark.



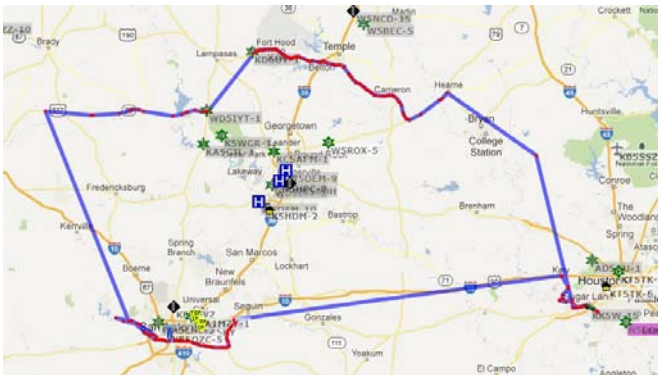
This year we tried self-reporting position and frequency using APRS. That was only partially successful in part because of my incompetence at setting APRS parameters. At lunch on Saturday we reconfigured the D700 and results were better. It seems what works in Houston doesn't so well on the road. The straight line between Katy and Seguin was

APRS parameter fault, North-West from San Antonio was difficult terrain, around Bryan we think is coverage. Fortunately W5RH was kind enough to post out text messages on the list server. Even with all that effort, the RF path to Harris and Fort Bend was very difficult. We made about 25 contacts with club members.

On occasion, we would pull off the highway when there was a safe, much higher operating location available. The picture at left is a location that is several hundred feet above surrounding terrain beyond the highway.



Was it worth the effort? Well, there is the expense mentioned above. Then the wind abused the Hustler so badly that on Saturday evening the hardware almost fell off in our hands. This was not a Hustler problem but a wind problem. Each of the guy ropes stretched five inches causing terrific grief in tuning as the day wore on. Then there is the battle with power line noise found along the highway. Then there is road noise, tires on pavement. Then there is signal fade from terrain. Then there is the frustration of typing on in a moving, unstable platform. Given all of this, the occasional pile-ups are spectacular. My experience is limited, so when suddenly five or ten stations suddenly answer a call, I am impressed. It's the only time I get to say, "The station ending in Zulu please come back." Once two ended in Z and I had to separate by prefix. To answer the question, yes it is worth it and if I can I will hit the road next year. I hope to work you in 2013; KD5QPX, 73.



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THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

September check-ins

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

Below is the BVARC Rag Chew Net check-in information:

08/29/12, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, K5DLL (Deer Park), K5NDB, AA0ST (Dickenson), N5CPA, WA5CYI, K5LJ, K0NM, K5LBU, AA5OA, WS5H, K5IZO, WN5A, N5ASH (El Campo). (15 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 111, SN = 73, A = 4, K = 1

09/05/12, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, WN5A, N5CPA, K5DLL (Deer Park), AA5OA, K5NDB, K5LJ, AA0ST (Dickenson), WS5H, KE5SR, W5MLE (Alvin), WA5CYI, K0NM, AD5IBU (Beaumont), KE5MUX. (16 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI =138, SN = 150, A = 13, K = 2

09/12/12, K5LKJ (NCS), K5DLL (Deer Park), AA5OA, W5TKZ, N5CPA, K5LBU, K5LJ, K5NDB, AA0ST (Dickenson), W5TOM, WN5A, KD5FBA, AL7AX (Katy), W5RH, KE5OBY, N5JSL, N5ASH (El Campo), WB5VYR. (18 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 103, SN = 73, A = 6, K = 1

09/19/12, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, K5LBU, W5TKZ, WS5H, AA0ST (Dickenson), K5LJ, N5CPA, AA5OA, W5RH, K5NDB, AA0ST(R) (Dickenson), WA5CYI, N5DTT, K0NM, K5IZO. (16 check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 110, SN = 61, A = 12, K = 4

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

Thanks., Regards._

All,

First let me express my gratitude to all of you that signed up, the ones who were convinced, to those who **will still sign up** and to Philip Hudson, WD5DAY and the Elks Lodge, who have graciously offered their support as they did for the Extra Exam challenge.

This is Challenge #2 in our on-going challenge series (yes, I have other challenges in the pipeline.)

How will this work?

The challenge is for the group to learn CW, specifically for contesting. I originally came up with this idea after watching N5XZ, K5IZO and others during field day. Clearly they have some magic we need to spread around and in order to do that I decided to start this challenge. There will be three (3) sessions per week – one session in person the other two session totally virtually – using Skype, more on that later.

- If you want to join please send an email to me directly.
- We will start at 18 WPM (words per minute) but increase the spacing of the characters to give us time to adjust. The reasoning being that we are trying to essentially learn phonetics, not just letters, numbers and symbols.
- We will start with groups in 45 second sessions – no need to get the brain juice cooking the first day
- We will use software to generate the code groups using the KOCH method to start with and then move to QSO's when appropriate
- You will need a paddle (Bencher or equivalent), not a straight key. Straight keys become difficult to use well above certain speeds and can be fairly tiring. You will not need one immediately, but within a few weeks. Everyone in the class will be transmitting code groups for others to copy and then later QSO's. Get a used Iambic paddle at ebay.com, qrz.com, eham.net or any of the other places. Any key is a great investment.
- You will need a way to generate the sound. Your rig or an electronic keyer – NO COMPUTERS (or any device using a microprocessor – yes that includes pads, phones, Nintendos etc.) Many rigs have a training mode or other way to not transmit – check you rig.
- You will need to download Skype – it is supported on all devices and then create an account if you do not have one. Not to worry, it is all free. If you do not have Skype you will NOT be able to participate.
- Add me to your contact list on Skype. My ID is ***matt.tatro***. Essentially we will be doing massive conference call with everyone so we can listen to the code and generate code. Download Skype at: www.skype.com
- When the time for the class rolls around I will add all of you to the call and then everyone can hear everyone.

OK, then what?

- Once we are proficient we will all participate in a contest, independently or in groups, depending on rigs and antennas
- Everyone will put something in the 'kitty' and the winner or the winner group will get the purse
- Next we will contest against someone like Allen, N5XZ as a group
- WE should also challenge the other local clubs for a contest
- The end result is we will have operators for Field Day in 2013 and do really well.
- We will also cover logging software and rig interfaces for contesting

What if I have problems?

- As with the Extra Exam Challenge, we will all have challenges and we as a group will do what it takes to move ahead together – this is not an individual thing
- If anyone needs help with equipment we can try to help, but if you are serious, you need to step up and do what it takes.
- The group is here to support you. Please let us know if you need assistance

What is next?

- In the next day or two I will finalize the schedule. My current thoughts are: Tuesday from 6:30 – 8:30 in person (but also on Skype), Thursday from 7-8:30PM via Skype and Sunday from 7-8:30PM via Skype as well.
- Please download the software you need from Skype and get it installed today. Please add me to your contact list sooner than later.
- Download the training software, G4FON (Koch Method) from <http://www.g4fon.net/CW%20Trainer.htm>

Please make sure to spread the word. The more the better.

And for you certificate hunters, we will have one of those too – and will be cooler than any past ones

73,

Matt Tatro, K5NGU

T: +1 (281) 905-1008 Thanks. Regards._

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
dwaynerdhonda@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

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.

OTHER HAM GROUPS:

WEDNESDAYS – WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH

LUBY'S CAFETERIA, 10:30a.m. to 12:00Noon +,
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>

10/20/2012 | Lufkin Hamfest 2012

Deep East Texas & Nacogdoches ARCs

<http://www.lufkinhamfest.com>

01/12/2013 | 2013 Amateur Radio Fiesta

Schertz, TX (NE of San Antonio

San Antonio Radio Club; <http://w5sc.org>

03/23/2013; Greater Houston Hamfest

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Rosenburg, TX





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 Scarella 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

VOLUME 36, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2012

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

General Membership Meeting – None for Oct. – Attend the SkyWarn training, Oct. 11, 6:30PM

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