



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2012

VOLUME 36 ISSUE 11

Chili Supper -- November 8th Meeting

It is that time of year. Elections and Chili -- a synergistic combination. Come on out and sample the different chili's from our culinary oriented members. Queso, chips, corn bread, and maybe even a dessert have also been known to show up, making the Chili supper a complete meal. BVARC supplies the ice and drinks and serving/eating utensils

If you would like to bring a pot of chili, please do so. If corn bread, jalapeno cream cheese poppers or a dessert is your victual orientation, please bring that.

No matter what you intend to bring, please contact me, 2012 Chili Meister, and let me know what you are making, so I can ensure we have just the right combination of food versus folks.

You can contact me at 3 points:

e-mail: rhiller@sdicgm.com

Work/daytime phone: 713-278-6310

Cell Phone: 832-474-3713

Rick Hiller – W5RH

2012 Chili Meister



2012 BVARC Elections – November 8th Meeting

Elections for new 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



October Meeting Report

There was no BVARC meeting in October. Instead, the National Weather Service and Fort Bend Office of Emergency Management held an Advanced Skywarn training event.



President's Corner for Nov 2012

By Kirk Kendrick – KK2Z

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

October has 2 great annual operating events for BVARC – “Astronomy Day” at the George Observatory in Brazos Bend State Park, and Boy Scout “Jamboree on the Air” (JOTA) ham radio events.

For 2012, the two occurred on the same weekend! John K5IZO and I went out to the George Observatory, setup an HF station, and demonstrated ham radio operating to any interested visitors. These folk at Astronomy Day are typically students interested in science, parents and teachers attending with their kids, and other astronomy and science focused individuals. For us, it was the chance to see some very excited scouts get on the air for the first time. Outstanding!! We had a few QSOs (6 complete), but 2 were roughly 30 minutes each with several scouts talking to folk having fun talking to scouts!

So, if you have a new, electronic project or radio equipment you build in 2012, or just want to show a nifty way to connect your radio to your computer...bring those projects to the December meeting – the annual “Homebrew” extravaganza. This year we are asking that the folk that do digital modes also join in and show/demonstrate their digital interface equipment. We've had many, many questions in meetings and on the reflector, and it's time to show what you use...whether you built or bought it.

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



DID YOU SUBMIT YOUR SCORE FOR THE TEXAS QSO PARTY?

You can still do so as they are due by Oct. 31. So whether you made 1 QSO or 477, we need to count YOU as a participant. Go to www.txqp.net and submit it. It is very easy and Chuck (TQP Guru) is very laid back about your form of submission and minor errors. We want as many operators to show support and that they participated.

Minutes of October 4th, 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 7:07 PM on October 4th, 2012 at Fuddrucker's, 11445 Fountain Lake Drive, Stafford, TX. Attending were: Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z (Pres.); Bob Tomlinson, N5JSL (Cor. Sec./Treas.); Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.); David Barber, K5NDB (1yr At-Large Dir.); Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; Bill Stone, WS5H; Norma Stone, KE5NDN; Sharon Tomlinson, KF5HUF; Charles Frost, K5LBU; John Chauvin, K5IZO (Newsletter Editor); Ron Litt, K5HM; Rick Hiller, W5RH (Past Pres.); Eddie Runner, NU5K (Webmaster); Matt Tatro, K5NGU.

1. Minutes for the September 2012 meeting were approved as previously distributed by email.
2. Treasurer's Report was presented to and accepted by the Board.
3. VP Report:
 - 3.1. October: Advanced Skywarn Training will replace The General Membership Meeting offered by the Ft Bend Office of Emergency Management and the City of Sugar Land will offer it.
 - 3.2. November Meeting, and Chili Dinner:
 - 3.2.1. Positions up for election are as follows.
 - 3.2.1.1. Vice President (regularly occurring every two years).
 - 3.2.1.2. Treasurer/Corresponding Secretary (regularly occurring every two years).
 - 3.2.1.3. 1 year at large director (conversion of the Past President position, it automatically transitions to a 1 year director).
 - 3.2.1.4. 2 year at large director (regularly occurring every two years).
 - 3.2.2. Board needs to come up with a Chili Coordinator. Hiller volunteered with Litt as the back up. Sauermilch will run meeting as Kendrick will be absent and Hiller will be running the election.
 - 3.3. December Meeting: Homebrew plus Digital. As an addition to the regular homebrew, there will be a Digital element that doesn't need to be user-built by.
4. Old business:
 - 4.1. Greater Houston Hamfest: Chauvin, Hardwick working on getting us set as South Texas convention so we can have significant ARRL events.
 - 4.2. Astronomy Day (Brazos Bend Park): Chauvin, it will be in 16 days, he and Kendrick will run a special event. This is also BSA JOTA weekend.
 - 4.3. Newsletter: This month has had a wealth of material.
 - 4.4. Permanent Home Committee: Chauvin, no meeting in a while. He will have more time and will be able to push project forward.
5. New business:
 - 5.1. Tomlinson: Scout event at Camp Bovay on November 3rd. He plans an HF station and contacts with BVARC members for the Scouts.
 - 5.2. Litt: CQ Word Wide Contest.
 - 5.3. Stone: Seawolf Park has had a change of the Chief-of-boat position. The park staff is even more enthusiastic than before about BVARC being on site.
 - 5.4. Kendrick: Winter Field Day in January, an event sponsored by SPAN not the ARRL.
 - 5.5. Tatro: Asked if we have made a donation to Richmond Fire Training Field recently. Kendrick tasked the treasurer to find out what donation history is and will be action item for November meeting.
6. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 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:

7/16 - 29 - Ron, k5nm	7/23 - 29 - Pete, kd5qpx	9/24 - 33 - Pete, kd5qpx
7/30 - 32 - Jerry, kf5eyc	8/27 - 36 - Pete, kd5qpx	10/1 - 39 - Cam, k5cam
8/6 - 22 - Pete, kd6qpx	9/3 - 32 - Cam, k5cam	10/8 - 29 - Cam, k5cam
8/13 - 27 - Cam, k5cam	9/10 - 33 - Pete, kd5qpx	10/15 - 30 - Dwayne, kb5yta
8/20 - 25 - Dwayne, kb5yta	9/17 - 21 - Dwayne, kb5yta	10/22 - 25 - Pete, kd5qpx



Oh Joy! Oh Joy! Postal Rates are going up!

Yes QSL Card collectors, the US postal service has announced postal rate increases that will go into effect on Jan 1, 2013.

First Class letters will increase 1 cent to 46 cents. So stock up on Forever stamps now and beat the increase. At least for a while. Never fear, if you mail postcard QSL's, they gotcha too! Postcard mailing rates will also go up 1 cent to 33 cents.

For those of you mailing QSL cards overseas well, things are even better. Last year the Postal Service increased International Air Mail rates from 98 cents to \$1.05. The 98 cent air mail stamp was a pretty cool stamp with the Grand Teton mountains on it. When the rate went up to \$1.05 a new stamp replaced the Grand Teton stamp. Personally, I never liked the Lancaster County stamp which is based on a gloomy photo of a country scene in Lancaster County, Pa.

Fear not, the postal service is to the rescue as International rates are increasing again to \$1.10. The good news? The new \$1.10 stamp will be a global Forever stamp good for mailing anywhere in the world. Details on the new stamp are not yet available. I hope they make a better choice for the image.

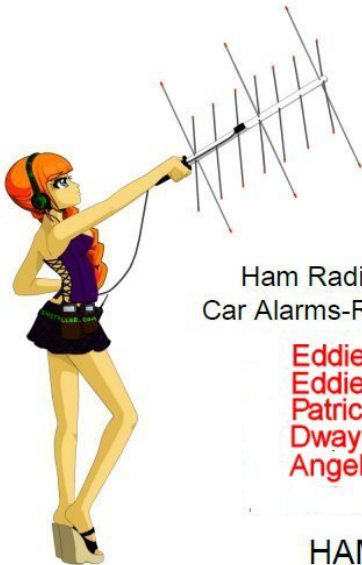
Reporting from The Dark Side . . .

73,
Ron, K5HM



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Eddie - NU5K
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HAM RADIO IS BACK IN HOUSTON AGAIN!

BVARC Historical Vignettes – Boy Scouts and the International Space Station (ISS)

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

A previous Historical Vignette discussed BVARC's long time support of Boy Scout activities. One of the most memorable examples of BVARC working with boy scouts occurred during the Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) on October 20, 2001.

Rick Hiller., W5RH, and Scott Medbury, KD5FBA, set up an amateur radio station at the Scout House at St. Francis Catholic Church in Alief so that local scouts could talk with other scouts over amateur radio. Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is always an exciting time for boy scouts and that year was no exception.

Scott surprised the boy scouts by setting up a station to try to work an astronaut on the International Space Station (ISS). The station that was put together was very simple. An Icom 2100 2-meter FM transceiver powered by a deep cycle marine battery was set up to attempt the contact. The power level was set to high power which was 55 watts. The antenna was just a simple Larson mag mount attached to the metal lid of a trash can. When the ISS came into range Scott gave a call and the boy scouts were very impressed when they heard an astronaut on the ISS respond.

Not only did the boy scouts get to speak with other scouts over amateur radio but they also contacted an astronaut on the International Space Station (ISS). It was a Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) that they would remember for many years.



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ARRL Sweepstakes

The ARRL Sweepstakes is a November institution for US and Canadian hams. The complex exchange puts a premium on accuracy to challenge experienced operators. The low barrier to entries make SS a common entry path for new radio sport enthusiasts and for those looking to fill out their WAS and county maps.

Depending on your point of view – it's either the perfect contest or perfectly awful:

Perfect	Perfectly awful
Doesn't require a killer station	Doesn't reward a killer station
Challenging exchange	Annoying exchange
Short – 24 hours operating time Max.	Long – Lasts 30 hours Sunday lasts forever
Clean Sweep Only 80 score multipliers	Limited Multipliers Only 80 score multipliers
	Once per contest rule – see “Sunday lasts forever”

The original Sweepstakes known as the “January Contest”, was first announced in December 1929 QST. It was originally structured as a message handling contest for hams in Canada and the US. The original rules called for an exchange of a minimum ten word message. A key rule limited participants sending one test message to each station worked. The “work stations once per contest” rule has remained a unique feature of Sweepstakes down the years.

While a lot about the contest has stayed the same over the years, much has also changed. Sweepstakes was moved to November in 1932; a separate phone contest was added in 1941; and operating time was limited to 24 hours along the way. In the last half-century not much has changed, other than the ARRL section list gradually expanding to its current level of 80 in 2012. A full description of the rules can be found here:

<http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

As long as your strategy matches your goal, you are bound to have fun. Selecting the best strategy for Sweepstakes depends on your goals. You can play to win in one of many categories or in your section, get on just to help out your local club's score, try to fill in the states you need for 5BWAS or just try to see how quickly you can make a Clean Sweep.

Sweepstakes is a “small station” friendly contest and doesn't require huge antenna farms, since SS is a domestic contest (U.S. and Canada). Assuming the sun will cooperate, forty and eighty meters are the “money bands” in Sweepstakes. Twenty meters being the usual workhorse. Near sunspot peaks, 15 and 10 meters can provide wide open spaces for more QSOs.

As a club BVARC can compete in SS against other clubs. There are three club categories, a local club, 10 or fewer entries; Medium, 50 or fewer entries or Unlimited 51 or more entries. Each station can submit two entries in the club competition, once for CW and once for SSB.

We need a minimum of three entries in order to submit a score as a club. To submit a club entry:

1. You must submit an individual entry.
2. Be sure to place the Club name as it appears on the list of ARRL Affiliated Clubs, “Brazos Valley ARC” in the club name header of your Cabrillo file submission.
3. You must be a member of BVARC to submit a club entry.

Interested members who are planning on participating in Sweepstakes this year and would also like to submit a score in the club competition, contact Ron, K5HM to have your call sign added to the list of prospective submitters.

Reporting from the Dark Side
73, Ron, K5HM

**Results of the October 9th
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, October 9, 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
George Ontko, KM5VP

Five examination elements were administered during the evening to four applicants. Two new Technicians, one new General and one upgrade to Amateur Extra class license were attained, with the total number of elements passed being 5. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

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

Michael P. Easton	- {KF5SGR}	- Technician
Jeanette J. Newman	- {KF5SGS}	- General
Vincent J. Newman	- KF5OXF	- Amateur Extra
Bart H. Steinberg	- {KF5SGQ}	-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



**THE BVARC Rag Chew Net
October check-ins**

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

09/26/12, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, K5DLL (Deer Park), AA5OA, K5LJ, K5NDB, K5IZO, WB5VYR, K0NM, AL7AX (Katy), AA0ST (Dickenson), WB5PNL (Beach City), N5CPA, N5ASH (El Campo), W5RH. (15 Check-Ins). Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 140, SN = 121, A = 2, K = 1

10/03/12, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, K5LBU, K5DLL (Deer Park), K5NDB, N5CBB (Baton Rouge, LA), AA0ST (Dickenson), K5LJ, WA5CYI, AA5OA, WN5A, N5CPA, W5RH, K0NM, K5IZO, K5YZS (Spring), WS5H, WB5PNL (Beach City). (18 Check-Ins). Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 118, SN = 55, A = 5, K = 1

10/10/12, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, AA0ST (Dickenson), W5TKZ, WN5A, AA5OA, AF5T, K5DLL (Deer Park), K5LBU, K5KNE (Belton), N5CPA, K5NDB, AL7AX (Katy), WB5PNL (Beach City), K5IZO, KD5FBA (T), WS5H, AB5KG, AE5ER (Mineral Wells), KE5ONT, KE5ONT (League City). (20 Check-Ins). Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 106, SN = 63, A = 42, K = 2

10/17/12, K5LKJ (NCS), K5DLL (Deer Park), WN5A, W5TKZ, KD5CDM, WA5CYI, AA5OA, K5NDB, K5LBU, N5DTT, KC5QDM, N5CPA, K5LJ, W5RH, WS5H, K5IZO, K5APB (Minden, LA), K0NM, KF5PPH, WB5PNL (Beach City), N5ASH (El Campo). (16 Check-Ins). Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 137, SN = 107, A = 5, K = 1

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

Come join us each Wednesday.

Regards._

..

Radio Sport Events of Note for November

Ron, K5HM

Daylight Savings ends on Nov 4th, so if you are keeping your Radio Sport Calendar in local time, add an extra hour to your offset when converting from UTC (Subtract six hours from UTC to get Central Standard Time).

79th Annual ARRL Sweepstakes Contest

CW 2100 Z, Nov; 3rd (Nov 4th 1600 Central Daylight time) to 0300Z Nov 5th (Nov 4th, 2100 Central Standard time)
SSB 2100Z Nov 17th (1500 Central Standard) to 0300Z Nov 19th (Nov 18th 2100 Central Standard).
Daylight Savings ends during the CW portion of the contest so CW operators lose an hour to operate.

This contest is different from the ARRL Field Day in that you get multipliers for each ARRL Section worked.

There are three new sections this year, as the former Ontario Section has been divided into four new sections (Ontario North, Ontario East, Ontario South, Greater Toronto). More info is at: www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

Japan International DX Contest - Phone

If you are still looking for that DX to fill out your Diamond DXCC, DXCC or IOTA, check out the **Japan International DX Contest** 0000Z Nov 10th (Nov 9th 1800 Central) to 1300Z Nov 11th (2100 Central Nov 10th)
<http://www.jidx.org/jidxrule-e.html>

Want to try something different?

The 10-10 Fall Digital modes Contest

0001Z Nov 10th (1801 Central Nov 9th) to 2359Z Nov 11 (1759 Central Nov 9th)
10 meters Digital only. <http://www.ten-ten.org/Forms/QSO%20Party%20Rules.pdf>

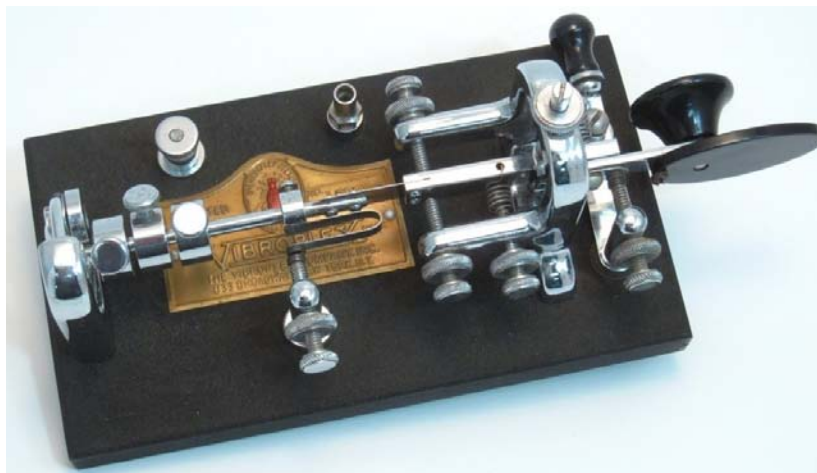
CQ WW DX Contest CW

0000Z Nov 24th (1800 Central Nov 24th) to 2400Z Nov 25th (1800 Central Nov 24th)
www.cqww.com

Special Events in November

- On Nov 4th W8BAP, The Extra Hour Special Event Station - Scioto Valley Amateur Radio Club. Celebrating the change to Standard Time and finding the lost hour from the spring.
- Nine stations will be on the air to commemorate Veterans Day on Nov 9th - Nov 11th.
- In Sugarcreek, OH, W8B will celebrate the World's Largest Cuckoo Clock on Nov 9th.
- That same weekend, help celebrate the Sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald with W8F. She is remembered in story and song and the Great Lakes ore freighter that mysteriously sank in Lake Superior.

See <http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations> for times and frequencies



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>

11/03/2012 | 14th Annual Coastal Bend Hamfest

First Presbyterian Church
430 South Carancahua Street
Corpus Christi, TX
South Texas Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.n5crp.org>
Talk-In: 146.820 (PL 107.2)

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

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NOVEMBER 2012

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

General Membership Meeting – Chili Supper and Elections. Thursday, November 8, 7:30PM.

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