



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

JANUARY 2016

VOLUME 40 ISSUE 1

## BVARC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Will not be held in January

The banquet on Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> 2016 will be held in place of the general meeting.



### Its Banquet Time

What more can you say. Check the article in this newsletter for more information.

**REMEMBER, YOU MUST PREPAY BY JAN 8. As the restaurant needs an exact count; at-the-door payment cannot be accepted!**



### December Meeting Report: The Gateway to D-STAR

If you missed it, that's too bad. Alan Isaachsen, KB2WF presented information on the ins and outs on D-STAR. He told about the basic set-up and operation of the S-STAR network as well as network connection. From the e-mails I have been reading, approximately 10% of BVARC members are equipped to use this mode. Since it is a merger of computer networking/Internet and amateur radio it is very versatile and resilient. If you need more information on D-STAR, contact Alan for more information.



### Upcoming Meetings

January 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	BVARC Annual Banquet	Ron Litt, K5HM
February 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Emergency Communications – Go Kit Info	Kerry Mallory, AE5JY
March 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Homebrew Contest	Jon Noxon, KF5TFJ

Your suggestions are needed for club meetings. Let someone know on the board if there is something you would like to know more about or would like a club program on.

73  
N5VCX





## The Prez Says

A new year is upon us and BVARC starts a new chapter. The club has done so much over the years that it is becoming difficult on what to do next. A few ideas I have for the future are:

1. With the club hovering around 200+ members, I feel a membership drive would help the club in many ways. With new members, we have new ideas and that is a good thing. I think we should have a new member night in the near future to help increase the membership and the brain trust of the club.
2. The BVARC picnic needs to be started again. What more can you say to that!
3. Beside the annual membership meeting swap with TDXS, I think a general meeting road trip is needed. Maybe we all can meet at Mission control at NASA!

That's just a few ideas that should be looked at for the new year.

The BVARC banquet is about two weeks away on Friday January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Ron Litt, K5HM is the coordinator for the banquet. We will be in a larger room this year at the restaurant so don't forget to purchase your tickets ASAP. Ron needs to have a head count by January 8<sup>th</sup>. Check for more information in the newsletter on the banquet.

And the clock is ticking on the Greater Houston Hamfest. With less than 3 months to go, the work for the Hamfest is really gearing up. There are still a ton of things that need to be done to make the Hamfest successful so if you are interested in helping out, contact either Rick Hiller, W5RH; or John Chauvin, K5IZO or anyone on the BOD. There will be several Hamfest meetings coming up so keep checking your e-mail.

As I mentioned last month, the club needs to look toward the future. The club still needs to bring in younger members to make the club survive. We do not want the club to end up like it was 15 years ago with only about 20 active members (the club had 85 members at that time but there were only 20 active ones). So reach out in your neighborhoods, schools, churches and see who might be interested in becoming a ham. You might be surprised.

BVARC's election in November (thanks Rick) brought the following results:

**1 Year At Large – Jon Noxon – KF5TFJ**  
**Recording Secretary – Michael Monsour – AC0TX**

**2 Year At Large – Jo Keener – KE7NSB**  
**President – Mike Hardwick – N5VCX**

Since the vice president's position was still open after the election, the Board of Directors appointed Jon Noxon, KF5TFJ, to fill the position for the rest of 2016. Unfortunately this left the 1 year position open but the BOD then asked Gerry Muller, K9GEM, to fill that position for 2016.

If you have ideas for programs for the general meetings, contact Jon Noxon, KF5TFJ. I know Jon would be glad to have fresh ideas for the club's program (I tried Jon).

Hope to see everyone at the banquet.

73,  
N5VCX



## BVARC AWARDS Banquet – Don't Miss It!

Only two weeks before the BVARC Banquet, Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>. Sign up today!

Don't forget you need to have your reservations in by Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> because we have to have a firm headcount to the restaurant by then.

This year's award banquet is at Maggiano's Little Italy, 2010 Post Oak Boulevard at 6:00 PM. Dinner is served family style, so come hungry. The food is great. This year we will be in the larger Trentino Room on the second floor. An elevator is available if needed. Plenty of free parking adjacent to the restaurant.

Like last year, there will be a mystery guest speaker, door prizes and awards for service to the club. So get your reservation in today!

Purchase your tickets by PayPal or check payable to BVARC.

If you pay by Paypal, use: <http://www.bvarc.org/index.php?page=banquet>

Mail checks to:

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 2997  
Sugar Land, Texas 77487-2997



### BVARC Historical Vignettes – BVARC's Incorporation as a Nonprofit Entity

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

Previous Historical Vignettes have related how an organizational meeting for BVARC was held at Westbury United Methodist Church on September 16, 1977. The club progressed slowly in the first few years and it wasn't until July 18, 1979 that the club began the process of incorporating as a nonprofit corporation.

Bob Spradling, W5UBD, began the process in July 1979. Spradling was the third president of BVARC and took office in 1980. The process of incorporation as a nonprofit corporation was complicated and involved filing documents with both the State of Texas and the Internal Revenue Service. It took several years to complete the process. The initial letter from BVARC that began the process appears below.

12306 Dorrance Lane  
Stafford, Texas 77477  
July 18, 1979

Secretary of State  
Sam Houston State Office Building  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Attention: Charter Division

Gentlemen:

I am a member of the Fort Bend County Amateur Radio Civil Defense Network which is composed mainly of members of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, a nonprofit organization.

It is our desire to incorporate the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club as a nonprofit corporation and we would appreciate receiving the necessary forms and instructions for filing such an application. The undersigned will act as agent and/or representative for the organization. The official meeting place of the club is the Missouri City Fire Station, should this information be required. The registered address should be as shown above.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Yours very truly,

R. W. Spradling - W5UBD



## Minutes of the December 5<sup>th</sup> 2015 Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Mike Hardwick called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to at 9:00 AM on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston 77074.

Attending were:

Mike Hardwick N5VCX Vice President, Donovan Balli KD5BDZ Treasurer, Michael Monsour AC0TX Recording Secretary/ Quartermaster, Scott Medbury KD5FBA 2yr At Large Director, Jerry Muller K9GEM 2yr At Large Director, Eddie Runner NU5K Webmaster, Cameron Mitchell K5CAM, Pete Sauermilch KD5QPX Jon Noxon KF5TF, Joe L Keener NE7NSB

### Reports:

- 1.1 Board meetings will now start at 9am. Board meetings for April and September will be determined later because of conflicts.
- 1.2 A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes as printed in the Newsletter.
- 1.3 A motion was made and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report.

### Old Business:

- 2.1 At the last Board meeting Mike Hardwick requested of the Hamfest committee an organization chart and a schedule of events and happenings. Nothing has been received.
- 2.2 The problems with the last Hamfest are five top items lessons learned: food truck, confusion with ticket sales, miscounting participants, not keeping people informed with last minute stuff, overall coordination issue. John Chauvin presented a Hamfest spreadsheet that included lessons learned and committee functions to Nathan but it has not been utilized.
- 2.3 The Hamfest was discussed, will contact Nathan to get an update, a basic organizational chart, a schedule of events and happenings to find about the tables/tickets reservation starting.
- 2.4 General meetings: December 10 D-Star presentation by Alan Isaachsen. Special election where Donovan Balli will be confirmed as Treasurer at next meeting. Joey Clements of Harris County Emergency Management has agreed to be the speaker at the BVARC banquet.
- 2.5 January 15 Banquet, Jo L Keener dropped off a CD with requested club pictures.
- 2.6 February 11, Emergency Communication, putting together a GO kit
- 2.7 March 10, Homebrew Contest, Chairman will be Jon Noxon
- 2.8 Mini Maker Faire went very well with many visitors.
- 2.9 Camp Hope with Bob Hawkins went very well, next year there will be a more elaborate station.
- 3.0 Museum Ships will happen in June with the club on the USS Stewart.
- 3.1 Field Day BVARC was the 5<sup>th</sup> highest scoring in the nation and highest in the 8A classification.
- 3.2 Facilities Committee, which consists of Pete Sauermilch, Scott Medbury, Michael Wrenn and Richard Goldy.
- 3.3 May want to start a Fall Field Day, which would be under the Events Committee.

### New Business:

- 4.1 There is no Vice President, A motion was made and passed to appoint Jon Noxon as Vice President to fill Mike Hardwick's position. A motion was made and passed to appoint Jerry Mueller to fill Jon Noxon's position as 1 Year At Large position. Both will begin their positions beginning January 1, 2016.
- 4.2 Donation Committee needs to be formed.
- 4.3 Marketing Czar is needed to promote the club and its events.
- 4.4 The raffle will be brought back to bring some fun to club meetings, which will start at the next meeting.
- 4.5 A listing of all VE testing within 100 miles will be placed on the BVARC Web site.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Michael Monsour AC0TX





**Results of the December 8th 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, December 8, 2015 at HCC's Scarcella Science & Technology Building here in Stafford, TX.

**MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:**

Richard Goldy, K5GOL  
Larry Jacobson, K5LJ  
John Moore, KK5NU  
George Ontko, KM5VP

Two examination elements were administered during the evening to two applicants. One new Technician class and one upgrade to General class license were attained, with the total number of elements passed being 2. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

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

William G. Dillon      -    KG5FQX      -    General  
Dominic E. Sanders    -    {KG5KUC}    -    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 ...



**BVARC Monday Night NET Updates**

Don't forget the BVARC Monday Night Net starts at **8 pm** on 146.94 (167.9). The order of check-ins starts 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 Mark, [mark@mcgrath-co.com](mailto:mark@mcgrath-co.com), if you are interested. Here are recent check-ins with control-ops:

9/14 - 28 - Rick, w5rh	10/19 - 26 - Ron, k5hm	11/21 - 18 - Clint, kf5hdf
9/21 - 26 - Cam, k5cam	10/26 - 18 - Pete, kd5qpx	11/28 - 18 - Terry, k5pgf
9/28 - 23 - Cam, k5cam	11/2 - 16 - Ron, k5hm	12/7 - 24 - David, n5ekw
10/5 - 22 - David, n5ekw	11/7 - 30 - Pete, kd5qpx	12/14 - 23 - Steve, kf5yyv
10/12 - 20 - Steve, kf5yyv	11/14 - 22 - Ron, k5hm	12/21 - 25 - Ron, k5hm





## **Radiosport Items of Note for January 2015**

For a complete list of contests click the link below  
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

### State QSO Parties

- Montana QSO Party Jan 23

### Mixed Mode Contests

- ARRL January VHF Contest Jan 30

### SSB Contests

- North American QSO Party, SSB Jan-16
- Kid's Day Contest Jan 5

### CW Contests

- North American QSO Party, CW Jan 9-10
- EU CW 160m Contest Jan 2-3
- UK/EI DX Contest, CW Jan 23-24

### Digital Contests

- PODXS 070 PSKFest, Jan 2 -3
- ARRL RTTY Roundup , Jan 2-3

### **Selected Special Event Activities**

- 72 Rag Chew New Years Special Event –Dec 31- Jan 2 – K1R, 7.272 KHz
- 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Straight Key CW Event – Jan 2-31
- Kansas Day, KS0KS Jan 23
- 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary San Francisco Radio Club – Jan 30-31
- Lake Havasu City Annual Balloon Fest Jan 14-19, K7B

### **And The Ever Popular . . .**

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Cabin Fever Special Event, K8PRC

For details on every Special Event in December, go to

<http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>



# A Memorable QSO

By  
Ron Litt, K5HM

1957 - It was a time of uncertainty and fear. A time for college applications, of Sputnik flying overhead, Elvis registering for the draft, Jimmy Hoffa arrested by the FBI, Federal Troops sent to Little Rock and Nikita Khrushchev, the Red Menace in full bloom.

This latest session of the Saturday Night NERD net; the net for guys who couldn't get a date, spent the evening on its two favorite passions; chicks and radio. The comments ranged widely over the two topics; from boobs to tubes; high heels to high antennas. The net was unofficial; so was the frequency, usually around 14,230 KC.

We knocked off early this Saturday. It was around midnight in late September. I wasn't ready to QRT for the night, so I decided to see if I work the late night DX on twenty. .



We ran A3, full carrier, double sideband AM then. The low end of U.S. phone band began at 14200 KC but most of the DX existed below the great divide. In the 50's, the FCC had a rigorous enforcement program.

We worked "split". Sneaking our VFO as close as we dared to the edge of the band, without drawing a pink ticket and looking for a clear frequency. It was an art form and all about timing and luck. .

At night, the whole band edge from 14200 – 14207 was a wall of QRM. The screaming heterodynes on the west coast, running full gallons beating against each other sounded like prehistoric beasts in mating season. .

I'd been a ham for barely three years; a General for two, and the allure of reaching out to foreign places; places I had barely knew was and still is; magnetic.

I found a spot that was momentarily clear, set my VFO on it. Then with cramped fingers on the receiver bandspread knob I tuned slowly down into the stygian darkness, where the great DX lived. Then I heard him – "CQDX, CQDX, VR6TC, VR6TC standing by." Yikes! Before I could react, he called again. "CQDX, CQDX, VR6TC, VR6TC standing by."

It's now about 1:30 Sunday morning. Everyone in the house is asleep. I flip from standby to transmit and I call him back from my side of the band. VR6TC, VR6TC, VR6TC, VR6TC, VR6TC, VR6TC, VR6TC, VR6TC, this is K2KMA, K2KMA, K2KMA, K2KMA, K2KMA, K2KMA, K2KMA, K2KMA, K2KMA, K2KMA, Kilowatt 2 Kilowatt Mexico America, Kilowatt 2 Kilowatt Mexico America, Kilowatt 2 Kilowatt Mexico America, Standing by for your call." I had to standby. I was out of breath.

I didn't know where that call sign came from exactly but I knew it was DX and I was not going to let it go. Yes, my technique wasn't exactly A-1 Operator style but I figured that I had zilch going for me, except repetition.

If someone parked on my transmit frequency, he might drown me out but if I repeated things enough, I might be heard when the other guy stopped sending. My Viking II transmitter gave all it had; about 90 watts



out. The 2 element Mosely monobander pointed southwest, hopefully skirting the Kalifornia Kilowatts on the west coast. I held my breath.

My mind was hard at work telling me why he would never answer. “He’s almost 5700 miles away. He might as well be on Mars. He probably is not listening for any stateside hams. You’re not running enough power. You need a kilowatt. He thinks you’re a lid anyway.” Thanks, the mind was always ready to support me.

And then I heard him. “K2KMA, this is VR6TC. You don’t have to repeat so much, I can hear you 57.” It was if the Red Sea had parted. I took my trusty #2 Dixon Ticonderoga pencil and wrote the time in the log.

“Roger OM, the handle (we used “handle” then before it was usurped by the CB crowd) here is RON, Roger, Oboe, Nan. You’re 57 too OM.” And I turned it back, muttering a major prayer under my breath.

BAM! He comes right back. Roger Ron, nice to meet you. The handle here is Tom and the QTH is Pitcairn. My rig is a Heathkit DX-35 running 50 watts and an HQ-120-X. Back to you, K2KMA from VR6TC

Wait a minute! Did he say Pitcairn??? As in Island??? While he’s talking, I grab my copy of the Callbook and look it up. On the next to the last page, there he was: Tom Christian, Pitcairn Island, and P.O. Box 1, South Pacific Ocean!

On the next exchange, I describe my rig and then casually, I ask him if he is related to Fletcher. “Yes”, he says. “He was my great-great-great-grandfather. K2KMA from VR6TC.

I don’t know what to say at that point. Somehow, *Fine Business Tom*, did not quite do it. How can you make casual conversation about radio gear? I am talking to a piece of living history.

I fumbled through the next exchange trying to find appropriate things to say like, “How’s the fishing, Tom? I saw the movie and I knew that Bligh was trouble from the start.” Tom saved me by simply saying that he enjoyed the contact and wished me 73.

I was spent, the whole QSO lasted a few minutes but the adrenalin rush had done me in. I completed the log entry and went to bed.

Next morning at breakfast, I mentioned the contact to my parents. “That’s nice dear”, Mom said from her battle station at the stove.” Nice? That’s it? Mom’s knowledge of history was limited to what she read in Life Magazine. The old man said nothing, his nose was buried in the Sunday New York Times.

It didn’t matter. I knew. I was hooked. This ham radio thing really worked.

Tom and I traded QSL cards and a couple of months passed before Tom’s arrived. I still have it on the wall in my shack. It survived two divorces and a flooded basement.

Sadly, I never got to meet Tom in person. He was born in 1935 only six years before me. I knew that he made a couple of trips stateside but I dropped out of the hobby in the 70’s and did not get back to it until 2009. Tom passed away in 2013. According to a story in the Auckland Star-Times, “Tom Christian — along with the late King Hussein of Jordan — was the most popular contact in the ham radio world.”







## BVARC Rag Chew Net

11/25/15, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, W5TOM, K0NM, K5LJ, KF5TFJ, KD5O, AA0ST (Dickinson). (9 Check-Ins)  
Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 109, SN = 66, A = 2, K = 0

12/02/15, K5LKJ (NCS), AA5OA, W5TKZ, KF5TFJ, AF5T, KC5JAR (Katy), W5HFF, K5IZO, K5LJ, KE5OBY, N5EKW (Katy), K5DAF (Katy), KD5FBA, W5RH. (14 Check-Ins)  
Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 95, SN = 27, A = 14, K = 2

12/09/15, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, KC5JAR (Katy), W5TOM, K5IZO, KF5TFJ, KE5OBY, W5HFF, K5LJ, K0NM/5 (RCS) Dana Point, CA, W5RH, KF5SDS (Needville), WN5A, KE5OXF (T)(Needville), N4HPG (Pearland), AF5T, AA0ST (Dickinson). (17 Check-Ins)  
Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 107, SN = 58, A = 10, K = 3

12/16/15, K5LKJ (NCS), K5IZO, KC5JAR (Katy), W5TKZ, KF5ONT, AF5T, W5HFF, KF5TFJ, KE5OBY, K5LJ, KG5BMS. (11 Check-Ins)  
Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 126, SN = 64, A = 8, K = 1

(M) = mobile (P) = Portable (R) = Relay (RCS) = remote controlled station (T) = telephone check-in

Come join in the conversation each Wednesday evening. Regards. John K5LKJ



## Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

### Board of Directors Meeting Dates and Times for 2016

January 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Location TBD
February 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park
March 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park
April 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park
May 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park
June 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park
July 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park
August 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park
September 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Location TBD
October 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park
November 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park
December 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park





# The Radio Hotel - Hooking Up with RF Connectors

By Rick Hiller -- W5RH

We always talk about coax -- RG-58, RG-8X, RG-213, LMR-400, etc. -- and we highlight the differences in loss, power handling, etc. But, we seldom talk about PL-259, SO-239, BNC, N, and SMA -- the connectors at the end of our coax. Why are there different types? A short jaunt down specification history lane will provide some answers.

**UHF Connector** -- we use the male PL-259 and the female SO-239 for HF use. Invented in the 30's with a maximum use frequency in the UHF range, BUT -- current recommendation is to limit the frequency range to less than 150 MHz. It is rated to about 500 watts, although some use it with more power at HF, but it must be de-rated proportionate to frequency and line SWR (a peak voltage restriction). Another important consideration for the UHF connector series is that impedance can vary from 25 to 70 ohms, but an impedance bump at HF is not so critical. Loss generated within the PL-259/SO-239 junction is very low at HF. Use high material quality connectors to avoid trouble.

**N-type** -- a step up from the UHF connector series, it keeps a constant 50 ohm Z across the connection, therefore, eliminating an impedance bump. Frequency range is below 11GHz and power handling is max at 1000W, again de-rating is in play. Since there is no impedance bump, loss is minimized. N's are also water-resistant, as they have O-rings to seal the coax entry, etc. A bit of Trivia -- it is an N-connector due to being invented by Fred Neill at Bell Labs.

**BNC** (An abbreviation for **B**ayonet, **N**eill, **C**arlson) -- BNC, designed for the military, is another constant 50 ohm connector, used mostly in low power situations like on a test bench between devices or on QRP type receivers and transmitters. However, power is good to 500 watts and frequency range is good up to 2 GHz. There is a **TNC** connector which uses "Threaded" connectors, replacing the bayonet fastening system. It is good for use up to 10 GHz.

**SMA** -- Ham Radio equipment within the last 25 years has become smaller and more prolific in the upper UHF and SHF ranges. Smaller means that the inputs and output connections need to be reduced in size and the SMA connector fits the bill. It is a constant impedance connector and the dielectric of the coax goes all the way to the connection point of the connector. It provides isolation into the -100dB range and frequency use up to 24 GHz, depending on the quality of the construction.

The easy part is using all of these connectors. The hard part is assembling these connectors onto the coaxial cable ends. One way to ease the assembly burden is to spend a bit extra and get high quality, pre-made cables, especially on the smaller connectors, like BNC or SMA. For the larger connectors PL-259, SO-234, etc., which are easier to work with, take a look at the ARRL Antenna Handbook or the Radio Amateurs Handbook for detailed instructions of how to assemble these onto your coax.

Once a connector is on a cable, it is easy to change the gender or series with readily available adapters. These adapters come in all configurations -- Male to Female, Male to Male, etc. and will adapt between genders like N to BNC, BNC to SMA, etc. Be warned, there are high losses within these adapters. Multiple adapters, stacked in series, will build up significant losses very quickly.

If you are interested in learning more about connectors, have a look at the following magazine columns:

VHF/UHF World Sept & Oct 1986 **Ham Radio magazine**

Microwavelengths November 2004 **QST magazine**

Learning Curve October 2013 **CQ magazine**

If you need help in obtaining these articles, send me an e-mail -- [rhiller@sdicgm.com](mailto:rhiller@sdicgm.com)

Enjoy your hobby. GL ES 73 DE W5RH

**Next time.... Software Tools for your Feedline**

*The purpose of **The Radio Hotel** is to give you a practical kickstart into exploring the workings of antenna systems. Google the buzz words and find out what they mean. Read up on antenna system theory to see how it all works together. You will be glad you did.*



## 2016 Officers:

President/ Acting President  
Michael Hardwick, N5VCX  
[n5vcx@att.net](mailto:n5vcx@att.net)

Vice President  
Jon Noxon – KF5TFJ  
[jon@noxon.cc](mailto:jon@noxon.cc)

Corresponding Secretary  
Stephanie Vessey K5SFV  
[K5SFV@att.net](mailto:K5SFV@att.net)

Treasurer  
Donovan Balli, KG5BDZ  
[dballi@mail.com](mailto:dballi@mail.com)

Recording Secretary:  
Michael Monsour, AC0TX  
[msircg@gmail.com](mailto:msircg@gmail.com)

2 Year At-Large Board  
Jo Keener – KE7NSB  
[jo.l.keener@juno.com](mailto:jo.l.keener@juno.com)

2 Year At-Large Board Member B:  
Scott Medbury KD5FBA  
[smedbury@windstream.net](mailto:smedbury@windstream.net)

1 Year At Large  
Jerry Muller, K9GEM  
[gmuller885@aol.com](mailto:gmuller885@aol.com)

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### Club Happenings:

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#### General Meeting

Second Thursday each month, 7:30 PM  
2511 Eldridge Rd, Sugar Land, 77478, Eldridge Park Conference Center (Check page 1)

#### Board of Directors Meeting

First Thursday of each month, 10:00 AM (For Sept., check website)  
Bayland Park Community Center  
Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet,

#### Volunteer Examiner Program

BVARC administers Amateur License Exams on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)

#### Rag Chew Net

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

#### Public Service Net

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



### Advertising in the BVARC Newsletter

Rates are as follows; \$25 per month for ½ page, \$125 for six months and \$250 for one year. The rates for a full page are as follows; \$50 per month, \$250 for six months and \$500 for the year.



## BVARC EATING SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

IHOP, 7:00a.m., SW Freeway inbound service road, near Kirkwood.

### 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>

### **01/09/2016 | San Antonio Radio Club Fiesta**

**Location:** Schertz, TX

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** San Antonio Radio Club

**Website:** <http://w5sc.org>

### **03/12/2016 | WCARC Swapfest and License Testing**

**Location:** Georgetown, TX

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Williamson County ARC

**Website:** <http://wcarc.com>

### **03/11/2016 | Louisiana State Convention (Acadiana Hamfest)**

**Location:** Rayne, LA

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Acadiana Amateur Radio Association

**Website:** <http://www.w5ddl.org>

### **03/18 & 03/19, 2016 | South Texas Section Convention (Greater Houston Hamfest)**

**Location:** Rosenberg, TX

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://www.houstonhamfest.org/>

# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

This newsletter is a monthly publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club. For a full listing of officers and information about BVARC, please go to [www.bvarc.org](http://www.bvarc.org). Detailed information will be published in the newsletter every 3 or 4 months. Similarly, the "Eating Schedule" will be published every 3 or 4 months unless there is a change.

General membership dues are \$25.00 per year, with student dues \$10.00 per year, additional family members \$5.00 per member per year.

Club meetings are normally held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Sugar Land Masonic Lodge, 421 Eldridge Rd, Sugar Land, 77478. Check the above website for any possible changes.

**BVARC** also administers amateur radio license exams on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 281-701-7602 or see the BVARC website: [www.bvarc.org](http://www.bvarc.org)

Other contacts include:

President., Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, n5vcx@att.net

Newsletter Editor, John Chauvin, K5IZO, k5izo@yahoo.com

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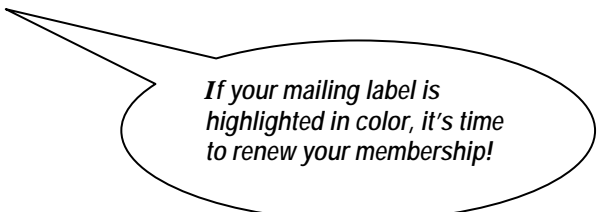
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**BRAZOS VALLEY  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
P.O. BOX 2997  
SUGAR LAND, TX 77487-2997  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

**Annual Banquet Registration/Payment Deadline – Friday, January 8.  
BVARC Annual Awards Banquet – Friday, January 15.**



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