



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

MAY 2016

VOLUME 40 ISSUE 5

BVARC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, QSL?

Join us for the May meeting on Thursday, May 12 for a presentation by our very own K5HM (Ron to his mother) on the Art and Science of "QSLing". Ancient wisdoms shall be revealed, including the secret incantations required for the QSL process. Sounds like a great one to attend, so bring someone who wants to get into this great hobby and join us.



April Recap



Marc Abramson, President of ABR Industries revealed a great deal of information about that round cable that connects your transceiver with your antenna. Lots of good poop on coax, connectors and other factors that hams need to consider to get the signal out. Marc was assisted by his daughter-in-law Shannon, who passed her Tech ticket at our Greater Houston Hamfest in March. Sorry, I failed to get her new call sign.



The Prez Says

June is just around the corner and that means three things – Museum Ships Weekend (MSWE), Hamcom and Field day. These events are some of the biggest amateur radio functions in the state and we should try and attend and support them. If you can make sure you sign up to help at MSWE or Field Day and try to attend Hamcom. Hope to see you at one of these events.

This year MSWE will be held at Seawolf Park in Galveston. If you are interested in helping or joining the event, contact Mark Janzer, K5MGJ at k5mgj@yahoo.com and let him know you are interested. I know operations will be set-up on the USS Stewart radio room with a few places to spend the night on board the ship Saturday night. Drop Mark an e-mail and let him know you are ready to “ride the waves”.

Field Day is just around the corner after MSWE. Mike N5MT and myself will be coordinators again this year so things should be about the same on set-up and operation. We will be at the Fort Bend County Fire Training field in Richmond as in the past so we will have plenty of room for field day operations. So make sure you sign up now (and sign the sign-in sheet) for field day. The June BVARC meeting will have more information on the event.

Don't forget the other club activities coming up: the ice cream social in August, the elections and Chili supper in November and home brew night in December. There has been talk about brining back BVARC's weekend camping trip for September or October. If you have any ideas for programs or events for the club, drop Jon Noxon, KF5TFJ and let him know.

And for everyone that is not aware about the MS150 this year, the second day was cancelled due to weather. It was still a huge event with nearly 10,000 riders and over 4,000 volunteers. There were still 100 amateur operators supporting the event between Friday and Sunday. As communications coordinator for the event, I really want to thank everyone for their hard work.

Without them, it would be impossible to provide communications for one of the largest bike rides in the nation.

Last but not least is the club's membership level. We are still hovering around 200 members which is good since we are no longer dropping in numbers. By maintaining the number around 200 members it allows us to have the income for club functions such as MSWE, Field Day, the annual Awards banquet and other club functions. So help with the club membership by bringing in new members. Without new members, the club cannot survive.

Hope to see everyone at the general meeting on the 12th.

73,

N5VCX





**Results of the April 12th
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 12, 2016 at HCC's Scarcella Science & Technology Building in Stafford, TX.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Richard Goldy, K5GOL
John Moore, KK5NU
George Ontko, KM5V
Randt Pugh, AA5OA

Three examination elements were administered during the evening to three applicants. One upgrade to General class license and one upgrade to Amateur Extra class license were attained, with the total number of elements passed being 2. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 66.67%.

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

David Ely - N5EKW - Amateur Extra
Keith L. Till - KG5MHF - General

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.

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BVARC Historical Vignettes –

For personal reasons, this article must be delayed until next month.



The Greater Houston Hamfest -- A Comment, then Pictures

Last month (April newsletter) I promised a full report, with pictures, about the 2016 Greater Houston Hamfest – the GHH. But, after reading what I had written, I realized that I had covered pretty much of what needed to be covered as far as activities, the number of attendees, the speakers, the commercial vendors and all facts for the record breaking expansion that we both designed for and generated.

2016 was a quantum leap in size and activities. It was a total success. However, I gotta be honest with you; when the former BVARC Hamfest chairman bailed, that left us in a lurch. 3 BVARC members sat down at the Denny's on the Southwest Freeway one Sunday night in late December and (making a long story short here) decided that the show MUST go on. It was an awfully close vote. But, on it went to become the greatest (so far) Greater Houston Hamfest. As one of the behind the scene'ers I can tell you that there are many folks that gave it their all, but one in particular led the pack. The next time you see John (Little John to those that know) K5IZO, shake his hand and thank him for the hundreds of hours of time and thousands of e-mails he spent pulling GHH 2016 together. Thank you, John! As long as I am pointing out the folks that did give it their all, I might as well complete my duty. In no particular order, you also need to thank these folks: Pete Sauermilch – KD5QPX, Eddie Runner – NU5K, Mike Hardwick – N5VCX, Ron Litt – K5HM and Donovan Balli – KG5BDZ. (Editor's Note: There was another, Rick Hiller – W5RH, the author of this article).

Many volunteers, both BVARC member and non-member, spouses, friends, etc. also added to the list of those that helped make it great. OK, with the atta-boys out of the way, I will move on and paint you a picture with pictures.

Below are a few pictures with captions. More pictures can be seen on the BVARC web site under the Club Event Photos. You can read about what went down on the Hamfest web site www.houstonhamfest.org home page. Scroll down and you will see the flyer and all of the newsletters that were sent out to the many hams that were interested in attending.



The parking lot and gate crew had a “vested” interest in the smooth operation of the GHH. N5VCX, KD5QPX, KK2Z and KC5QDN



Guest speaker Joe, K0NEB, gently guiding a neophyte kit assembler in the free Friday workshops and sessions.



One half of the crowded commercial vendor building. The other half was just as crowded.



AI-N5AFV, Bruce-KK5DO & Scott-KD5FBA prep for the AmSat FM bird satellite pass.



Andy, W5ACM, and a group of Boy Scouts, just seconds away from releasing the first ever GHH ham radio balloon.



BVARC's KK5W HF station was on the air with 2 remote rigs – a TS-480 and a K3/0 both provided by Nizar, K0NM.



Featured Speaker Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, holds the GHH audience captive with tales of FCC enforcement. Note the self-provided podium, which he was allowed to take home. HI



Keynote Speaker, Carl, K9LA and his wife Vicky, AE9YL, pull double duty by checking DXCC QSL cards for the GHH attendees.

Submitted by Rick, W5RH



**Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
Board of Directors Meeting Dates and Times for 2016**

May 7 th , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park
June 4 th , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park
July 9 th , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park
August 6 th , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park
September 3 rd , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Location TBD
October 8 th , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park
November 5 th , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park
December 3 rd , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park



T. R. McElroy DeLuxe - Circa 1940s



Minutes of the April 2nd, 2016 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: 03 AM on April 2nd, 2015, at Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston 77074.

Attending were:

Mike Hardwick N5VCX (President.), Jon Noxon KF5TFJ (Vice President), Donovan Balli KD5BDZ (Treas.), Michael Monsour ACØTX (Rec.Sec./Quart.), Scott Medbury KD5FBA (2yr At-Large Dir), Jo L Keener KE7NSB (2yr At-Large Dir), Jerry Muller K9GEM (1yr At-Large Dir.), Eddie Runner NU5K Webmaster, John Chauvin K5IZO Newsletter Editor/Parliamentarian, Cameron Mitchell K5CAM, Ron Litt K5HM (Radio Sport), Pete Sauermilch KD5QPX, John Moore KK5NU VE Liaison, Steve Friedman KF5YYZ (Corresponding) Secretary

Reports:

1.1 Steve Friedman KF5YYZ is now the Corresponding Secretary vacated by Stephanie.

1.2 A motion was made and passed to accept the March Minutes

1.3 A motion was made and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report that included the Hamfest results. There were altogether 1325 attendees according to the wristbands and 3082 raffle tickets sold.

1.4 The QSL manager will be taken over by Jim Burrows N5DTT

Old Business:

2.1 For the April meeting, ABR will do a presentation.

2.2 For the May meeting, Museum Ships will be featured and Mark Janzer K5MGJ will be the coordinator. Also the May meeting will feature QSLing, the ins and outs.

2.3 June meeting will feature Field Day. The coordinators have already been picked.

2.4 The By-laws need to be tweaked with duties specific to positions.

2.5 The Masonic Lodge renewal is coming up in June with a request to repair lights and toilets. A motion was made and passed to continue with the present arrangement providing the lights and the toilets get repaired.

2.6 Randy Pollard filed the required audit.

2.7 The Treasurer was asked to look up the Field Day budget from last year.

New Business:

3.1 A request was made to have a sign in sheet for meetings.

3.2 It was discussed sending an E-mail asking what subjects the members are interested in.

3.3 Need programs for meetings after June

3.4 The Monday Night net needs a new name. A motion was made and passed to call it the **Monday Night BVARC Public Service Net.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Michael Monsour ACØTX



The Radio Hotel- Antenna Origins -- Part 3(fin)

Beverage and Uda and Yagi, Oh My!

By Rick Hiller -- W5RH

In the later portion of the 20's decade, the frequencies Hams used were reaching beyond 14 MHz. The distances communicated by even the average Ham were steadily increasing. Station to station transcontinental and transoceanic QSO's were becoming commonplace. Antennas were getting quite a lot of attention in both the Ham Radio and commercial worlds.

During this time period, RCA had communication stations on most of the continents that relied heavily on HF to pass thousands of traffic handling messages. With the varying HF propagation and the varying HF noise levels due to nature itself, radio men were concentrating on how to get the message thru. RCA's Dr. Harold H. Beverage, W2BML, was at their Riverhead, NY location experimenting with very long receiving antennas (miles long). He found that these receive antennas had significant noise reduction or even strong station reduction qualities. QST, November 1922, contained an article by Dr. Beverage about his "Wave" Antenna. This Wave Antenna is known today as the Beverage Antenna and is still used for low band reception.

The United States was not the only country interested in radio. Japan had its' own radiomen: two in particular. Dr's Shintaro Uda and Hidetsugu Yagi were working on an antenna Dr. Uda called a "shortwave projector". They showed that by using multiple dipoles in a parasitic fashion that you could indeed increase the forward effective radiated power of an antenna system [and also improve the receiving signal strength – "reciprocity"]. Yagi received the US patent for this antenna in 1932 ["Variable directional electric wave generating device" – US Patent 1,860,123] and this "Yagi" or "Beam" antenna invention inspired antenna configurations that are in use by the millions around the world today. Uda, the actual inventor, was left behind the dash: Yagi-Uda.

Since the inventions of the Beverage and Yagi-Uda antennas, their designs have been refined and improved by others. Additional antenna configurations have been invented and developed, for example: the Rhombic, the Windom, the W8JK, the G5RV, the Cubical Quad, the Helix, the Turnstile, etc. This antenna development continues even today where we have had the newer Ham antenna variations such as the LFA or the OWL (Google them). All types of new tricks of the antenna trade are being modeled, tried, implemented and sold to the ever expanding Ham Radio market generated by a Ham's desire to continually improve their station's capability. These new designs are just part of the 100 year long timeline of antenna development, all originating with the large "capacitive" antennas of the Spark era.

[End of the Antenna Origins 3 Part Series]

Epilogue – Have a look at QST magazines of the past, available online at ARRL from 1915 to the current day. See what Hams were doing back in the days without Gigaparts or DX Engineering. Although it is not always good to live in the past, a gander back will show you that your own inventive, inquisitive, imaginative Ham spirit has always been a foundation quality of those that partake in this great hobby. Bask in the glow of knowing that your desire to know how things work and how to make your station work better emulate those of the Spark-era radio pioneers. Enjoy your hobby. GL ES 73 DE W5RH

Next time.... Antenna Efficiency

*The purpose of **The Radio Hotel** is to give you a practical kickstart into exploring the workings of antenna systems. It is a series, so go back and read the previous columns to get the whole picture, as one month relies on the previous month's information. 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.*

BVARC Rag Chew Net

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

03/23/16, K5LKJ (NCS), WB9FOP (Katy), W5TOM, W5TKZ, AF5T, W5HFF, N5EKW (Katy), K5LJ, KF5TFJ, W5RH, KG5LRP (Katy), AA0ST (Dickinson), KF5ONT. (13 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 86, SN = 13, A = 8, K = 1

03/30/16, K5LKJ (NCS), W5HFF, KF5TFJ, KD5CDM, WA5CYI, W5TOM, W5TKZ, N5EKW (Katy), KE5OBY (R), K5LJ, KF5YYZ, AF5T, K5IZO (R), AA0ST (Dickinson), W5RH, AA5OA, WA5KXG. (17 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 84, SN = 13, A = 11, K = 2

04/06/16, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TOM, WA5CYI, KD5CDM, KF5TFJ, W5TKZ, K5IZO, W5HFF, K5LJ, N5EKW (Katy), WD6CQO (Nederland), AA5OA, AF5T, AA0ST (Dickinson), KD5FBA, W5RH, WA5KXG, KB8OTM (Lake City, FL), K0NM. (19 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 87, SN = 27, A = 8, K = 1

04/13/16, K5LKJ (NCS), KC5JAR (Katy), KF5TFJ, W5TKZ, W5HFF, N5XZ, K5IZO, K5LJ, KE5OBY (R), N5EKW (Katy), WA5CYI, AA0ST (Dickinson), AA5OA, W5RH, W5TOM, KG5BMS, KJ5Y/5 (Michigan) (R)(RCS). (17 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 109, SN = 34, A = 19, K = 3

04/20/16, K5LKJ (NCS), K5IZO/5 (Jasper), KF5ONT, KF5TFJ, KD5CDM, W5HFF, WA5CYI, K5LJ, W5TOM, K0NM, AA5OA, W5KGV, W5TKZ, KK2Z (Burnet) (RCS), K8DIJ, WB9FOP (Katy), AF5XL, WA5KXG. (18 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 83, SN = 28, A = 3, K = 0

(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



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 Rick, w5rh, if you are interested. Here are recent check-ins with control-ops:

1/11 - 18 - Steve, kf5yyv	2/15 - 23 - Ron, k5hm	3/21 - 19 - Ron, k5hm
1/19 - 22 - Ron, k5hm	2/22 - 22 - Clint, kf5hdf	3/28 - 29 - Clint, kf5hdf
1/25 - 24 - Clint, kf5hdf	2/29 - 22 - Terry, k5pgf	4/4 - 27 - Rick, w5rh
2/1 - 29 - Dave, n5ekw	3/7 - 17 - Rick, w5rh	4/11 - 20 - Steve, kf5yyv
2/8 - 23 - Steve, kf5yyv	3/14 - 23 - Steve, kf5yyv	4/18 - 26 - Ron, k5hm

BVARC QUICK STATS

Date	Members	Newsletters	Life Members
4/24/2016	201	207	66

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. 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 2nd 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 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 281-701-7602 or see the BVARC website: 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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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

BVARC General Membership Meeting – Thursday, May 12, 2016



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