



BVARC BEACON



Newsletter of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT
BEND COUNTY

OCTOBER 2020

VOLUME 44 ISSUE 10

BVARC OCTOBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Submitted by Mark Janzer, K5MGJ, BVARC VP

For Thursday, October 8th, 2020 there will be an online ZOOM meeting. Presentation will be Dave -- N5EKW talking about the Civil Air Patrol - Zoom Invite details will be posted pre-meeting. We won't be having IN PERSON meetings for at least another couple months (the Sugarland facility is still closed). Club Business meetings will be held over ZOOM.



BVARC SEPTEMBER MEETING RECAP

The September general meeting was a Zoom presentation by Matt Heere, N3NWV. Matt's presentation was on Parks on the Air otherwise known as POTA. As popular as the National Parks on the Air program was in 2016, POTA takes it to the next step. POTA is an ongoing operating event and not a contest. It has a bunch of awards for both park activators and chasers. Parks may be activated almost anywhere in the world, on any band that you may have privileges and any mode. You can now see that with all of this versatility, POTA appeals all HAMS every where and all classes. Satellites, HF, VHF and UHF. Parks that count have a park number that has been assigned. State and National parks, monuments, forests, wildlife refuges and Historical places make the list huge and growing. Countries are continuing to be added on every continent.

To begin participating you first need to register your call sign on the parksontheair.com website. Getting credit for a park as a Hunter does NOT require that you upload any logs. That is the responsibility of the park Activators. They submit their logs to volunteers in each call district.

Matt has several videos on his YouTube channel that you can visit. His presentation is also available on the BVARC website. He also has a number of other videos on ham and topics.

He was born and raised in Wichita Falls and somehow found his way to Pennsylvania where he is employed as an EE.

Scott Medbury

KD5FBA



Editor's Note: This issue started out with 16 pages of material. We can only have 12 or we have to pay additional postage. Therefore, unfortunately 2 articles are being delayed until next issue and many of the articles had to be reformatted with some resulting changes in appearance.

The Prez Says

Fall is finally upon us and I am ready for it. With the “new normal” due to COVID-19, the cooler temperatures will be a welcome change. With the cooler temps, everyone should be able to install your new HF antenna without getting heat stroke!

Hopefully everyone had a great time with the Texas QSO party. As in the past, BVARC will be sponsoring two of the first place with plaques so keep watching the Beacon on the top winners.

Speaking of contests, make sure you put on your calendar the following contests:

October 19 -23 – ARRL School Club Roundup

October 24 – Kentucky State Parks on the Air

October 24 - 25 - CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB

October 30 – Zombie Shuffle

If more information is needed or interested in other contests, go to <http://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html> .

Our monthly Zoom program on Parks on the Air was great and extremely informative. Matt Heere, N3NWV, explained all the in-and-outs on both working and participating Parks on the Air. If you missed the program, go to the BVARC web site and you can watch it there. BVARC wants to thank Matt for a great program and hopefully you will be back in the future.

Our program list for the rest of the year has been filled out and I think everyone will enjoy them. The programs are:

October	Dave Ely	Civil Air Patrol - How Radio is used Supporting the Air Force and SAR missions
November	Rick Hiller	Baluns and Chokes – Why We Need Them and What They Are For
December	Mark Janzer	Finding Emelia Earhart by Using Radio Signals

Stay tuned to W5RH’s weekly e-mail blast, the BVARC reflector and the newsletter for changes and updates.

Besides COVID making life interesting, we have had several weather events in the 30 days. The Gulf Coast has had two hurricanes, Marco and Laura, and one tropical storm, Beta, make landfall all within 600 miles. Luckily only one of the storms affected the Houston area and that was minor flooding (compared to the past storms). With the way the season is going, we could still have a few more storms hit the US (I hope not!). The break we are having now will hopefully give everyone enough time to get their Go-Kits ready and your supplies restocked.

The club is still going. We are still inching up with 254 members. Reaching the milestone in August was done with help from many club members over the last 19 years. I want to thank everyone that has helped on making the club the largest one in Houston and one of the largest in Texas. I also want to thank everyone that continues to keep the club functions going. From the newsletter to the “Stir Crazy” net controls to everyone working on VE testing, thank you for your work. Without you, BVARC would not be here.

Don’t forget coming up in November are Club Elections. Rick, W5RH, is the election committee and will working slate of candidates and the voting process. There are other articles in newsletter with more information so make sure you ready the information. The club needs your help to manage and coordinate all of the aspects of running the largest amateur radio club in Houston. If you would like to help the club by volunteering your time to be on the board of directors, please contact Rick Hiller, W5RH, and let him know you are interested in running for office. You can also nominate someone from the floor if you want to but make sure you talked it over with them so there are no surprises.

With COVID-19 still with us, we are still a long way away from being virus free in the community. The Sugar Land Recreational is still closed for events through at least October. Due to the club’s demographics (read lots of people over

60), person-to-person meetings are still on hold possibly through January. There has been discussion about the banquet as well as the Greater Houston HamFest. Nothing has been finalized so keep up with the BVARC Beacon and the website. So, remember to wear your mask, keep social distancing and keep those hands washed.

I found a 2 old pictures from my trip to Australia. This was a great exhibit since most everything on the ship still works1



Museum Ship HMAS Gladstone in Gladstone, Queensland, AU – All radio equipment still works!

73,
Mike, N5VCX



**Where in the world is . . .
Howland Island (KH1)
CQ Zone 31
IOTA OC-089**

Howland Island is an uninhabited coral island located just north of the equator in the central Pacific Ocean. The island lies almost halfway between Hawaii and Australia and is an unincorporated, unorganized territory of the United States.

Geographically, together with nearby Baker Island it forms part of the Phoenix Islands. For statistical purposes, Howland is grouped as one of the United States Minor Outlying Islands. Talk about an official putdown. How would you like to be a Minor Outlying island?

Howland Island National Wildlife Refuge consists of the entire island and the surrounding 32,074 acres of submerged land. The island is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an insular area under the U.S. Department of the Interior and is part of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument. Since Howland Island is uninhabited, no time zone is specified. It lies within nautical time zone UTC-12.

On July 2, 1937, American aviation pioneer Amelia Earhart was attempting to circumnavigate the globe in a modified twin-engine Lockheed Electra when she — and her navigator, Fred Noonan — mysteriously disappeared in the middle of the Pacific Ocean near Howland Island. They had made several changes to the plane's equipment, particularly its antenna layouts and structure, that may have critically harmed communication between the plane and its ship tender, the United States Coast Guard Cutter *Itasca*. The *Itasca* was standing by at Howland Island to signal the Electra and guide it in. Unfortunately,



due to the communications problems, the Lockheed and the cutter never made contact. While the ship could hear her engines, it could not respond to her transmissions on the same frequency.

An enigmatic person of her time, she defied most of the female norms of the day and became a pilot. Her flying career included flights across the Atlantic and the United States. In 1935 Earhart made history with the first solo flight from Hawaii to California, a longer distance than that from the United

States to Europe. Later that year she became the first person to fly solo from Los Angeles to Mexico_City. She was known for encouraging women to pursue careers, especially in aviation

Howland Island was uninhabited when the United States took possession of it under the Guano Islands Act of 1856. Its guano deposits were mined by American companies from about 1857 until October 1878. George W. Benson formed the United States Guano Company to exploit the guano on Howland Island. For more on guano See *What the Guano??* article below.



The island was a known navigation hazard for many decades and several ships were wrecked there. Colonists, sent to the island to establish possession claims by the United States, built the Earhart Light, as a day beacon or navigational landmark. It is shaped somewhat like a lighthouse, meant to be visible several miles out to sea during daylight hours. The beacon was partially destroyed during early World War II by Japanese attacks, but it was rebuilt in the 1960s by the U.S. Coast Guard. By 2000, the beacon was reported to be crumbling and it had not been repainted in decades.

The entity of Baker and Howland Islands has been on the DXCC list since 1945, but was initially known as Baker, Howland & American Phoenix Islands. QSOs count for Baker and Howland Islands from 1945. The DXCC entity consists of Baker Island and Howland Island, and, until 1983, also included Canton Island and Enderbury Island. Baker, Howland, Canton, and Enderbury Islands are geographically part of the Phoenix Islands. From mid-1947, the KB6 (WB6 for novice stations) prefix was used for Baker and Howland Islands, and continued to be used for Baker and Howland Islands until the US callsign revision of 1978, from which date the prefix became KH1, with AH1, NH1 & WH1 also being used. According to ClubLog.com, Howland Island is number 30 on its DXCC most wanted list.

What the Guano??

What do these islands have in common?

Most Wanted DX	Name	Prefix	IOTA#
#30	Baker & Howland Island	KH1	OC-089
#8	Johnston Is	KH3	OC-023
#14	Midway	KH4	OC-030
#21	Kingman Reef & Palmyra Atoll	KH5	OC-085
#21	Jarvis Island	KH5	OC-081
#34	Wake Island	KH9	OC-053
#45	Navassa	KP1	NA-098
#31	Swains Island	KH8/S	OC-200
#258	French Frigate Shoals	KH6	OC-055

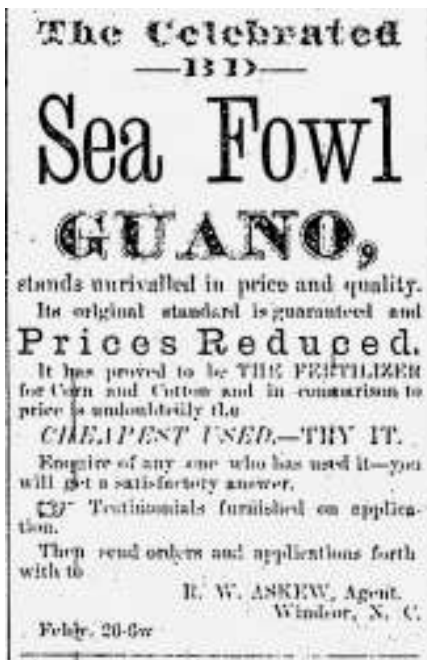
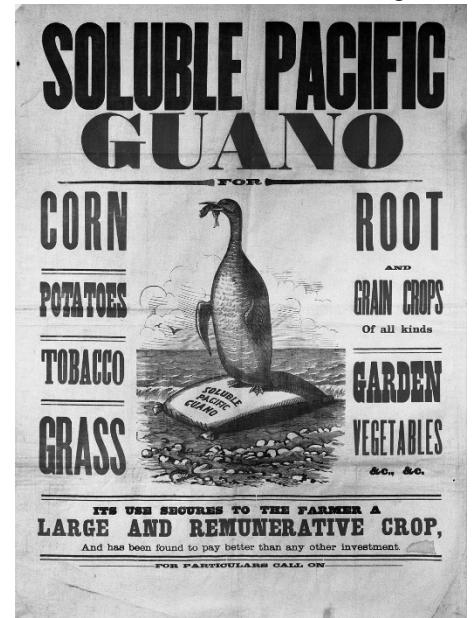
HINT: Even though they are all islands and most have low numbers on the Most Wanted DX list that is not the link. The thing they all have in common is guano; particularly bird poop.

Yes, without our national desire for bird guano some of the world's premier DX locales might never have showed up on the radio spectrum.

In the mid-nineteenth century before the advent of chemical fertilizers, American farmers discovered that bird guano was a superior fertilizer compared to commonly used manure. The trade in guano became the foundation of modern farming and inspired the colonization of remote bird islands in many parts of the world. When the word spread about the power of guano, Americans became eager for it, despite high prices.

President Millard Fillmore addressed the matter of guano, stating that it was "the duty of the Government to employ all means properly in its power for the purpose of causing that article to be imported into the country at a reasonable price."

In 1856, the U.S. government passed a dubious piece of legislation called the Guano Islands Act. It allowed any unclaimed or unoccupied islands containing guano to be annexed. The U.S. Navy was directed to back up this claim. Companies could use this protection to explore and claim other islands.



The act was originally intended for Americans to acquire their own guano rich islands and was one of the founding acts of American imperialism. Guano islands were found in the Caribbean, such as Navassa Island, and some in the Pacific, including Baker and Jarvis islands.

During the latter part of the nineteenth century, the guano trade flourished. At one time there were more than 60 islands claimed under the act. The Pacific Guano Company was one of the largest who mined guano from the central pacific islands. During this time, the company flourished. At the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, the company had its own pavilion that sang the praises of their products.

By the 1880's the trade in guano declined as cheaper chemical fertilizers came to market. However, guano is still in demand by organic farmers.

Today, only eight islands remain; administered as the US Minor Islands plus one each annexed by American Samoa (Swains Island) and Hawaii (French Frigate Shoals), remain as possessions of the United States (see list above). However, there is still plenty of guano around on 75 meters.

Reporting from the Dark Side
Ron Litt,
K5HM



Have you submitted your entry to Texas QSO Party yet?

There's still time – until October 10. We need to show support for this event by as many members as possible. It doesn't matter how many QSOs you made; each participant is one more person showing support.

Have you worked K5DX/50, the TDXS special event celebrating their 50th anniversary?

TDXS members are operating with the call sign K5DX/50 on 160 through 6 Meters using CW, FT8, and SSB. Operation on other bands and modes is also likely. A special commemorative QSL is available with a SASE or SAE with appropriate postage. Already in progress, it ends on October 13, 2020 at 23:59 UTC. Listen on the bands or check the spots, and make a Q or two. For additional information see <https://k5dx-50.tdxs.net/>.

The Annual BVARC Elections Nov. 12th For 2021 Board of Directors Offices

This is a “Call for Candidates” for:

Vice President Treasurer Corresponding Secretary
Recording Secretary 2 Year At Large Director 1 Year At Large
Director

Even in the shadow of CV-19, BVARC must continue to operate and we need dedicated members to do just that. The requirement: a once a month Board of Directors meeting for about an hour that is currently on Zoom. Some offices, however, require a bit more time than that, but not much really.

By being on the BOD you get to see how the club is run and provide your input to making the club a better place to hang your ham radio hat. Step up, volunteer to be part of the core group that runs BVARC. It is fun, it is satisfying and it doesn't take much time.

Nominations must be into the nominating committee by Nov 11.

Questions? Contact: Rick Hiller-- W5RH -- rickhiller73@gmail.com Text or call 832-474-3713. TNX ES
73

BVARC Elections Special Procedures for 2020

Due to the Covid 19 limitations causing us to hold our meetings on-line via Zoom, we have had to rethink the process of our annual elections. **In a nutshell, the elections will still be held at the November 12th meeting, but on Zoom.** Details on how this will occur will be provided in the November newsletter, on the nets and on the weekly News Blast.

Your duties, in the meantime, as an active member of BVARC are to:

- 1) Spread the word about the elections.**
- 2) Talk to your fellow members and discuss being a candidate.**

Next month:

- 3) Review the November Beacon for detailed election procedures.**
- 4) Attend the November meeting on Zoom to generate a Quorum.**
- 5) Vote for each of the offices when the slate is presented.**

Thank you for being an active member of BVARC and we look forward to your active participation in the November election.

The Nomination Committee..... contact us at rickhiller73@gmail.com

MINUTES
Board of Directors Meeting
Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
September 19, 2020 9:00 AM
Via Videoconference

Members Present:

Mike Hardwick N5VCX (President)	Michael Monsour AC0TX (Quartermaster)	Jeff Greer W5JEF (Cor. Secretary)
Mark Janzer K5MGJ (Vice President)	Scott Medbury KD5FBA (2 yr at large director)	Chris Luppens KG5BBF (Visitor)
David Ely N5EKW (Treasurer)	John Chauvin K5IZO (Parliamentarian)	

Recorded by Jeff Greer W5JEF Corresponding Secretary

1. Call to Order: The President called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM
2. Establishment of a Quorum: A business quorum was established, with 7 of 10 Board members present.
3. Club President's Opening Statement: The President thanked those in attendance for taking the time to join the meeting.
4. Approval of Agenda: There being no pre-established agenda, the Board voted unanimously to hold the meeting in the usual format without one.
5. Emergency Business: No new emergency business.
6. Approval of Treasurer's Report: Approved. \$23,873.20 available funds.
7. Corresponding Secretary: 2 new memberships by mail; checks to be provided to Treasurer for deposit.
8. Old Business:
 - Discussion about whether to continue the \$5 membership special for those who pass licensing exams. Decision deferred.
 - Upcoming general membership meetings:
 - i. October: David Ely will provide a program on the Civil Air Patrol
 - ii. November: Rick Hiller will provide a program on baluns (impedance transformers). Elections will be discussed, but held via email, pending a determination that we can do so without violating the bylaws.
 - iii. December: Mark Janzer is arranging for a program on finding Amelia Earhart.
 - iv. January: Ordinarily, we would hold our annual awards banquet in January. Holding a virtual banquet is a possibility due to the coronavirus. Decision deferred until next BoD meeting.
 - The Board would like to provide tokens of appreciation to meeting presenters; Mike to work with Jeff offline
9. New Business: Mark Janzer to organize a workday to repair antennas in preparation for Museum Ships Day.
10. Cost Saving Measures: Storage locker renewal is due end of October; need to get everything out prior.
11. Next BoD Meeting Date: October 3, 2020
12. Comments:
13. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:53 AM

Cutting Through the Static – Elmer who?

JP Pritchard, K5JPP

I recently heard that 1965 Beatles song “Help!” and it was inspiring. Help! I need somebody, (Help!) not just anybody, (Help!) you know I need someone. Help!

There’ve been times in my new experience as a ham radio operator when those words echoed in my ears. That in mind, this column is dedicated to those who help, those Elmers who get new hams through licensing into doing mode.

Elmer is an old-fashioned sounding idea because Elmer is an old fashioned name. But our moniker for a ham helper was a real guy, Elmer P. “Bud” Frohardt Jr, W9DY, of Madison, Wisconsin. (Turns out Elmer Frohardt didn’t like to be called Elmer. His friends called him “Bud.”

He became the official namesake of ham helpers because he had helped a well known ARRL columnist when he was just getting started in the hobby.



Another inspiration for this column was the cover of the latest QST, spotlighting “Ham Bootcamp,” a revitalized effort to bring new hams along into HF or whatever aspect of Amateur Radio they’re interested in.

We all take tentative steps at first, not wanting to do it wrong, making a fool of ourselves, or breaking with some “sacred” tradition of the hobby. So, who’s there to help? Where does a new ham find an Elmer? How much is that guide or “teacher” expected to do? The answers are simple --

through club membership and remembering that it’s all volunteer -- that time spent helping is all up to you.

I put out my first real call for help on the BVARC reflector, asking for advice on what kind of HF rig I should consider. I’ll bet I got a dozen suggestions, but one really stood out. Jim Burrough N5DTT thought I should consider the Yaesu 857D, and actually brought an extra 857D over to my house, along with a 20 meter wire dipole, and set me up to try it. I later bought one myself and used that radio for quite some time. I still have it as a backup.

Jim’s 20-meter dipole was temporary, until Bill Cordell, W5VOM, helped me with an elevated dipole, and later with my SteppIR vertical. That was service way beyond the call.

In addition, some of my Elmers invited me to their shacks, to see how they operate. I’ll always be grateful to Paul Easter WW5PA and John Chauvin K5IZO for their generosity of time and an invitation to their home.

And in the last couple of years, I’ve been so grateful to Rick Hiller, W5RH, for sharing his extensive knowledge of antennas, his collection of nuts and bolts and hands-on guidance and encouragement.

These guys and others are always helpful to new hams, depending, of course, on what’s going on in their own lives. But BVARC needs more Elmers because we are testing again, pushing new hams out of the nest. We need to be there for them, to get them flying.

Elmers by the way aren’t just for new hams. We always need to help each other as we delve into new branches of the hobby – how to get started doing EME, digital, learning code, building antennas, using amateur satellites, etc. It’s a great rule of thumb. Don’t get bored, get busy, learning something new or helping someone else.

And here’s what happens when you reach out for help or to help. Friendship always comes down to doing things together, sometimes even struggling together. There’s just no other way to real friendship.

73, K5JPP, JP Pritchard.

The Feed Point

(BVARC Member Stories: How We Got Here)

This Month's Featured Ham – John Chauvin, K5IZO

Picture this – 1957, Gretna, LA, contiguous with New Orleans, 5 blocks from the Mississippi river on the West Bank.

13 year old John Chauvin was growing up in this “sterile” community (you know, like Woodlands or Sugar Land – Hi, Hi), and later going to a public high school which of course was of the highest academic caliber. However, I always had an interest in Science and Math which led to amateur radio. I followed these paths, and though not cool, I took college preparatory courses in High School.

I wasn't raised on “the wrong side of the tracks” – I was raised “between the tracks” (on a street located between two sets of freight tracks, 2 blocks apart). I wasn't born with a silver spoon in my mouth, but my parents did own a business which provided the means to very modestly dabble in such techy things as ham radio. Toys and learning tools such as Tinkertoys in pre-school, then a Gilbert Chemistry Set, an Erector Set, a crystal radio kit, Heathkit stereo kits, and many others help cast the mold.

There wasn't a particular event or person who made me aware of amateur radio; there was no Elmer¹ but I was clearly tuned to that frequency and found out about a local club and joined. I was by far the youngest member in the club. The first year as a member, I was “awarded” a special trophy. It was a large variable capacitor with a large knob mounted on a hand painted board with custom name plate that said “Knob Twiddler Champ of 1957.” Their club amplifier, located in the “clubhouse,” was homebrew and consisted of 4 each 813s, 750 watts, which took up every inch of an 84” tall 19” rack and which I inherited once the club upgraded.

I got my Novice, Technician and General tickets within 6 months. For those too young to know, in those days we had to go to the FCC office to take the test and send & receive 13 WPM Morse code for the General Test. There was no question pool; we had to figure and calculate the answers and draw complete circuit schematics.



I purchased, and assembled, a Globe Chief transmitter kit (90 watts input – thus about 50 watts output CW) which of course was rock bound². Did it have cold solder joints? Of course not; a 13-year-old built it without instruction or supervision! A club member helped me clean it up. I got a Hallicrafters S38-D receiver. This model receiver had an ungrounded non-polarized 2 prong 115 VAC plug, of which one side was chassis ground (I.e. – 100% chance of having either the case being “hot” or the circuit and thus the receive antenna be hot). I made a 40M dipole and got a straight key (which I still have) and was on the air. Later I built a Heathkit VFO³; I was in seventh heaven.

Three years ago, BVARC members were asked to write articles and send them to the Reflector about their “Most Memorable Field Day.” To get a better feel for the nature of, and the “upscale” environment of my early amateur radio days, that write-up is currently posted on the BVARC Website at:

www.bvarc.org/index1.php?page=article

13 year old K5IZO at his station. The calendar says June 1957.

In late high school, I discovered girls, booze and muscle cars. I went to college (Geaux Tigers) and of course got a degree in EE. I got married, had a career, traveled and raised a family. I took a short 35-year sabbatical from ham radio but in 2003 I became a reborn ham. I promptly got my license back with the same call letters, and got my Extra Class license.

Most of you know “the rest of the story⁴.”

And to think, my wife of 54 years still puts up with this.

Tnx es 73
de John, K5IZO

1. Elmer: A name given to a ham who helps a newbie get into amateur radio. JP’s article above – “Cutting Through The Static – Elmer Who?” is dedicated to this.
2. Rock bound: Using a quartz crystal to establish the transmitter’s frequency. You could transmit on as many frequencies as you had crystals (usually 3 or 4).
3. VFO: Variable Frequency Oscillator. This allowed me to transmit on any frequency in the ham bands.
4. “the rest of the story”: Paul Harvey’s cliché.

Editor’s Note: JP, K5JPP, BVARC At Large Director, has initiated soliciting members to tell us their ham radio story – how they got interested in amateur radio, where the hobby has taken them, etc. . The above article, by John, K5IZO, is the latest. Hopefully members will respond with articles in the forthcoming months. Get with JP to coordinate this. His contact info in on the website.



August VE - FCC TESTING SESSIONS RESULTS

Bayland Community Center is open, though they still have imposed a restricted headcount, which limits the number of people in the test room. For the Saturday, September 19th test session: We had 3 candidates and conducted 4 tests.

Upgrades

W5DRB (Extra)
KJ5EMP (Extra)
KI5KNT (Extra)

Congratulations to all!

A GREAT thank you to the VEs in attendance – K5GOL, W5JAZ, W5GX and K5LJ.

The next BVARC test session is Saturday October 3rd, at 10:30.

Examination sessions are held each month, usually on the same day as the Saturday BVARC Board meeting. These sessions are at the Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074

Details for candidates are found at www.bvarc.org/home/amateur-license/

Call Mark Janzer, K5MGJ at (832) 875-0526 or eMail: (k5mgj@yahoo.com) to pre-register.

2020 Officers:

President (2020-2021)
Michael Hardwick, N5VCX
n5vcx@att.net

Vice President (2019-2020)
Mark Janzer K5MGJ
k5mgj@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary (2020-2021)
Jon Noxon KF5TFJ
jon@noxon.cc

Corresponding Secretary (2019-2020)
Jeff Greer, W5JEF
greerj@hotmail.com

Treasurer (Finish 2019-2020 term)
David Ely, N5EKW
Davidely@prodigy.net

2 Year At-Large Board Member A: (2020-2021)
Rick Hiller, W5RH
Rickhillier73@gmail.com

2 Year At-Large Board Member B: (2019-2020)
Scott Medbury KD5FBA
smedbury@windstream.net

1 Year At Large (2020)
JP Pritchard, k5JPP
jppnews@comcast.net

Regularly Scheduled Club Happenings:

General Meeting

Second Thursday each month, 7:30 PM
Imperial Park Sugarland Recreation Center at
234 Matlage Way, Sugar Land TX, 77478
Due to COVID-19, as this goes to press, the meeting will be held
online. Check www.BVARC.org for more current info.

Board of Directors Meeting

The Saturday before the 2nd Thursday, 9:00 AM (For Sept., check
website)
Bayland Park Community Center
Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston.
Due to COVID-19, as this goes to press, the meeting will be held
online. Check www.BVARC.org for more current info.

Volunteer Examiner Program

The monthly ham testing session takes place on the same day and
location as the BOD Meeting, but at 10:30 AM. However, please
check the BVARC website for any last minute changes or updates.
The meeting location is open, however please check the
www.BVARC.org for updates.

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

SPECIAL NETS during these COVID-19 times:

A breakfast net is held on Saturday mornings and a "Stir Crazy" net
is held each weekday at noon. Check www.BVARC.org for current
info.



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

**Most of these events have resumed while complying to
the Social Distancing and Mask requirements. Check
with the respective entity to see the actual status.**

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

IHOP, 7:00a.m., SW Freeway inbound service road,
near Kirkwood. This has resumed. Masks and social
distancing are required.

OTHER HAM GROUPS:

WEDNESDAYS – WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH

Due to COVID-19, this is currently not taking place.
When it does, information will be posted in the
BEACON, and sent to the BVARC Reflector.

WEDNESDAYS – AMSAT & QRP GROUP

PAPPAS BARBECUE. 11:30a.m., SW corner
Westheimer & Gessner. Not meeting now, but some
show up.



Hamfests

(typically within 200 miles of Houston)

Hamfest info for the next few months. More information at:
<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html#listing>

Belton Ham Expo – Fall 2020

Belton, TX
CANCELLED

10/17/2020 –

South Texas Hamfest & Electronics Expo

Location: Sinton, TX

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: South Texas Hamfest Association

Website: <https://southtexashamfest.org/>

01/08/2021 - 01/09/2021

Radio Fiesta 2021

Location: Schertz, TX

CANCELLED

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

This newsletter, the BVARC BEACON, 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 BEACON 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 temporarily virtual via ZOOM on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. If you have signed up for the reflector, you will receive notice and the attendance password, etc. It will also be on the website (above) a few days beforehand.

BVARC amateur radio testing has resumed. It takes place typically on the Saturday before the 2nd Thursday of each month at 10:30 AM. Location: Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston, 77074. BEFORE GOING, because of COVID and scheduling conflicts, please check the BVARC website for any changes. Masks and social distancing are required.

A Public Service Net is held each Monday at 8 p.m. on the 146.94 (minus offset, PL 167.9 tone) repeater.

During COVID-19 a "Stir Crazy Net" is also held weekdays at 12 Noon on the same frequency as above.

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, see the BVARC website: www.bvarc.org

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VOLUME 44, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2020

**BRAZOS VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

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SUGAR LAND, TX 77487-2997


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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

October 8 - Virtual Monthly Meeting via Zoom. See the meeting notice citing the details.

October 10 – Final date to submit your Texas QSO Party entry.

September 14-October 13 – TDXS 50th Anniversary Operating Event



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