



BVARC BEACON

Newsletter of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY



VOLUME 48 ISSUE 5

MAY 2024

General Membership Meeting is May 9th at 7:30 PM

Community Volunteer Fire Department Community Center, 16005 Bellaire Blvd, Houston 77083

The BVARC Food Team is providing BBQ Baked Potatoes!

The program will be Mark Janzer K5MGJ with a review and general planning session for **Museum Ships Weekend** (MSWE), June 1-2. Come to the meeting and find out more about Museum Ships Weekend.

The BVARC Board of Directors Meeting will be May 5th at 5 PM via ZOOM.



May 2024 – Amateur Radio Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
P: Pub Svc Net 8 PM Mondays Q: QuestionAIR Net 7:30 PM Tuesdays R: Rag Chew 7 PM Wednesdays S: Stir Crazy Net Noon Mon-Fri			1 R S	2 S	3 S	4
5 BVARC Board Mtg 5 PM Zoom	6 P S	7 Q S Brews w/ BVARC 6:30 PM Eureka Heights Brewery	8 R S	9 S BVARC Mtg 7:30 PM: Museum Ships	10 S	11 VE Testing 10:30 AM Bayland Park Community Center
12	13 P S	14 Q S	15 R S	16 S	17 S Dayton Hamvention	18 Dayton Hamvention
19 Dayton Hamvention	20 P S	21 Q S	22 R S	23 S	24 S	25
26	27 P S	28 Q S	29 R S	30 S	31 S	

Dayton Hamvention Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center, 210 Fairgrounds Road, Xenia OH 45385 <https://hamvention.org>



More Life Members for 2024

More people are signing up for Life Membership for 2024. Members who sign up for Life Membership are supporting the club for the long term. The new members are:

Jorge Guitierrez, WK5J Sean Linkenheimer, N5LNK Jonathan Taylor, KI5OZK

Thank you for your support for the club!

BVARC is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your donations to BVARC are tax deductible and provide benefit to the Ham Radio community. Find more BVARC information at bvarc.org.

Help for Newbie Hams

I'll bet even old timers in the amateur radio hobby remember their early days as a new ham. If you were a youngster and had a parent or other relative to guide you, more power to you. I was just 13 or 14 years old when I passed the Novice test back in the early 60's but I had no one to guide me. I was lost and my first attempt at becoming a ham was quickly over.

Fast forward more than 50 years to 2016. I attended one of those "Get Your Technician License in a Day sessions at the Transtar Center. I soon had my new call sign and my very own Bao Feng UV-5R. But again, I didn't know how to move forward in my second attempt at being a ham radio operator.

I reflect on those experiences as I realize that we have lost dozens of newly licensed hams who joined BVARC in the past year, probably at least some of them because they were lost, like I was.

Being an Elmer is no small thing. It's a great way to give back to the hobby you enjoy, but it's also time-consuming when many of us don't have a lot of time to spare. But can you spare the time it takes to answer a few questions via email or over the phone, to offer a little direction and/or encouragement on a particular subject that you're familiar with?

We have members who are well versed in one topic or another, whether it's stealth antennas or a particular brand transceiver. We have those who have a great understanding of the various modes we use in ham radio. Our members are a veritable encyclopedia of ham info.

It's been proposed that those who think they can help other hams without having to commit to a huge block of precious time designate their willingness, perhaps with a simple notation on their entry in the BVARC membership roster on BVARC.org.

If you're willing to help guide our members, especially the newbies with their ham-related questions, please send me an email at K5JPP@arrl.net. We haven't worked out all the details yet, but if we pull together a little bit, maybe we can turn more newly minted hams into active, happy operators and participating members of BVARC.

73, JP, K5JPP



Upcoming ARRL Division Conventions and other major conventions

May 17 - 19 Dayton Hamvention, ARRL National Convention, Xenia, Ohio, <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/dayton-hamvention-arrl-national-convention>

May 31 - June 2 SEA-PAC, ARRL Northwestern Division Convention, Seaside, Oregon, <https://www.seapac.org/>

June 15 Knoxville Hamfest, ARRL Delta Division Convention, Knoxville, Tennessee, <https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/knoxville-hamfest-and-electronics-convention-arrl-delta-division-convention>

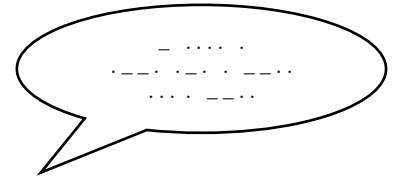
June 28 - 30 HAM RADIO, Friedrichshafen, Germany, <http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.com/>

July 12 - 13 HamCon: Zion, ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention, St. George, Utah, <https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/hamcon-zion-arrl-rocky-mountain-division-convention>

August 17 - 18 Huntsville Hamfest, ARRL Southeastern Division Convention, Huntsville, Alabama, <https://hamfest.org/>

The Prez Says

The April program was excellent, and I want to thank Chuck Abramson, K9FCA, of ABR Industries for his great program on coaxial cables and their uses. Chuck's experience in the industry of RF transmission lines is unbelievable and the club appreciates him coming out and doing the presentation. If you have questions about coax, please drop Chuck an e-mail.



Coming up for the May 9th program will be Mark Janzer, K5MGJ with a review and a general planning session for Museum Ships Weekend (MSWE). MSWE will be held on June 1st and 2nd and Mark is planning for a great time for the event. Make sure you come to the meeting and find out more about Museum Ships Weekend.

ARRL Field Day is coming up fast and will be held the last weekend of June on the 22nd and 23rd. Richard Bonica, KG5YCU will be coordinating the event and needs your help to make it a successful event. Richard will also be the speaker for the June meeting, going over the details for Field Day so make sure you make the meeting to get the most up-to-date information. Please contact Richard at KG5YCU@gmail.com if you have any questions.

And do not forget Brews with BVARC on May 7th Eureka Heights Brewery, 941 West 18th Street in Houston. More information is on the web site, or you contact Kori Rahman, WX5KR at kori113@gmail.com.

I want to mention an issue that some of you may have heard on the 146.94 repeater recently. An operator, that I feel is not licensed, was transmitting for about a half hour pretending he was on a CB radio in the 1970's. He was making random calls and trying to sound like he was in the movie "Smokey and the Bandit". As more radio equipment becomes available that can easily be set to various repeaters, these situations will increase. This is an unfortunate sign of the times.

To help prevent this type of behavior occurring, we should always remember to never acknowledge the operator. If you find out someone you are talking to is unlicensed, simply sign off giving no reason why you are signing off. Please remember, never acknowledge the illegal activity. Do not discuss it on the repeater later as well. This is what the illegal operator wants and the more the better for their ego. So please keep aware of the possibility of the "squirrel" operators out there and let us work together to stop their activity. If you find information on one of these squirrels, please contact me and I will pass it on to the ARRL and the FCC.

See you there at the May 9th general meeting.

73,
N5VCX



? ? ? HAM EXAM QUESTION ? ? ?

Which of the following types of amateur station communications are prohibited?

- A. Communications transmitted for hire or material compensation, except as otherwise provided in the rules
- B. Communications that have political content, except as allowed by the Fairness Doctrine
- C. Communications that have religious content
- D. Communications in a language other than English



Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Minutes - Board of Directors Meeting

April 6th, 2024 @ 9:00pm via In Person @ Bayland Community Center

Board Members

President – Mike Hardwick – N5VCK	Vice President – Kori Rahman – WX5KR
Recording Sec. – Sean Linkenheimer – N5LNK	Corresponding Sec. – Jeff Greer – W5JEF
Treasurer – Dave Ely – N5EKW	3 Year At-Large – Drew Dasher – N1ER
2 Year At-Large – Terry Leatherland – K5PGF	1 Year At-Large – Daphne Rawlinson – K5VQY

Guests Present: Ron Litt – K5HM, Eddie – NU5K, Joe – KJ5EPN, John – K5IZO, Anthony – W5LIC, Kristy – KI5RLZ

- ❖ Establish Quorum – Yes
- ❖ Call Meeting to Order – 9:09 am CST
- ❖ Opening Statement(s) – Thank you for coming to our first face to face meeting in 3 years.
- ❖ Emergency Business – none
- ❖ Agenda Review – Jeff moves to approve, Drew 2nd, Pass by unanimous decision.
- ❖ Treasurer’s Report – Checking Balance \$9,154.85, Savings Balance \$18,399.00, Net Available Funds \$34,748.75 Club is healthy. Membership 4 new members, 324 total members. Motion by Jeff, 2nd by Daphne, passed.
- ❖ Corresponding Secretary Report – returned checks not deposited yet. Renewal email reminder forth coming.
- ❖ Old Business
 - Approval of Treasurer’s Report from February – Tabled in February due to Treasurer’s absence. Tabled again in March due to lack of quorum.
 - Expanded Survey for Annual Awards Banquette survey is forthcoming.
 - Parks On The Air Future of the event. – no movement yet possibly new format unveiled next month. The topic will be moved off the agenda until Houston POTA evaluates their needs. Funds are earmarked through June for this activity. Donations collected for the event are placed in one big pot with other funds.
- ❖ Programs
 - Greater Houston Ham Fest – Estimated 1900 in attendance. 1913 door prize tickets circulated. 1716 raffle tickets sold. \$170 made on tailgate.
 - Museum Ship coming in June
 - Field Day coming in June
- ❖ Committees
 - Historical Archives – Link created on website for archived newsletters and meeting minutes.
- ❖ New Business
 - Life Members – Badges to be issued for life members.
 - Jeff made DXCC all on SSB
- ❖ Next BoD Meeting - Pursuant Article V Section G #1 of the Club By-Laws
 - May 5th, 2024 @ 5:00pm. Location Zoom
 - May 9th General Meeting – Museum ships is the topic.
- ❖ Closing Statement(s) Thank you all for coming.
- ❖ Meeting Adjourned – 9:58 pm CST

Recorded by: N5LNK - Sean Linkenheimer

Waves & Coffee – Approximately speaking.

Why do we have near, mid, and far fields in antennas?

By Stephen W2WF

As we've seen, antennas are a fascinating subject. In science and engineering we often resort to models of the real world and once we have a model in mind, we apply mathematical equations to our model. By their very nature, the model equations tend to be very general. Sometimes too general. Therefore, in our studies of antennas we resort to approximations as tools that will give us useful answers to practical problems.

Approximations can be thought of as ways to apply our physical intuition to the problem at hand. They serve to trim down the scenarios and restrict them to our particular situation. For example, it would make no sense to solve a model that would apply to under water VLF antennas when we're trying to model radio wave propagation in the atmosphere.

Restricting our model scenarios is also helpful since the more general the equations are, the more difficult they usually are to solve.

The tool present in our toolbox that we are going to look at in this brief note is called "approximation".

To read the entire article please go to <https://bvarc.org/home/tech-downloads/>.



BVARC Rag Chew Net

03/20/24, K5LKJ (NCS), KI5UKI (Dequincy, LA), WD5CAY (Cypress), K5JPP, K5TPC (Bellaire), K5LJ, W5TKZ, KG5ICR, K5RBC (Lake Jackson), K5DBL (Manvel), AI5KD (Pearland), W5ALW, W5CNM (Kountze), W5RH. (14 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 169, SN = 120, A = 9, K = 0 / Band Rpt: FAIR

03/27/24, K5LKJ (NCS), K5LJ, KG5ICR, AI5KD (Pearland), K5TPC (Bellaire), W5LIC (Bellaire), K5DBL (Manvel), AA5OA (Percy, AR), W5VOM, K5RBC (Lake Jackson), KC5SBA (Lake Charles, LA), KI5SKL. (12 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 178, SN = 114, A = 11, K = 1 / Band Rpt: GOOD

04/03/24, K5LKJ (NCS), K5LJ, W5VOM, W5WES (Baytown), N5VCM, KG5ICR, K5TPC (Bellaire), KI5HOC, W5ALW, WX5KR, (10 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 113, SN = 45, A = 8, K = 1 / Band Rpt: FAIR

04/10/24, K5LKJ (NCS), WW5PA, K5AKM (Alexandria, LA), K5LJ, KG5ICR, AI5KD (Pearland), W5ALW, KB5TWW (St. Martinville, LA), KI5HOC, W5VOM, KE5QY, K5DBL (Manvel), W5RH, W1BG (Katy). (14 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 124, SN = 54, A = 10, K = 2 / Band Rpt: GOOD

04/17/24, K5LKJ (NCS), KI5HOC, K5LJ, W5TKZ, W5ALW, K5TPC (Bellaire), K5PTG (Pearland), KI5QY, W1BG (Katy), K4USN (Cypress), W5RBY (Cedar Crest, NM), KC9JLE (12 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 199, SN = 190, A = 31, K = 1 / Band Rpt: FAIR

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

Net conditions have been good this month. Fire up the rig and learn what others are doing and share your experiences. Come join in the conversation each Wednesday evening. Regards. John K5LKJ

APRIL VE - FCC TESTING SESSIONS RESULTS

For the April 6th test session at Bayland Park - we had 6 candidates and conducted 12 tests.

New Licensee:

Clayton, S (Technician)
Mittman, M (Technician)

Upgrades

KJ5FEL (General)
KJ5EDH (General)
KJ5FHS (General)
KJ5FLI (General)

VEs in attendance – KG4NDS, K4USN, K5GOL, K5LJ, K5IZO, N1ER, KG5ICR, W5LIC, and WM5N – **THANKS!**

Congratulations to All!

The next BVARC test session will be **Saturday, May 11th** at 10:30am.

Pre-registration is required.

For new licensees the testing fee, paid at the session is \$15. An additional \$35 license fee (totaling \$50) will be collected by the FCC separately for new, renewal and vanity calls. License upgrades **do not** pay the added \$35 fee, just the \$15 session fee.

YOUTH LICENSING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The ARRL has created a youth program (18 and under) to defray the licensing costs to a total of **\$5** (deducting the \$35 increase and \$10 off the \$15 VE session fee). See: <http://www.arrl.org/youth-licensing-grant-program>

Also, BVARC is implementing its own program for **youth** licensing.

We'll provide a **new VHF/UHF transceiver (Baofeng, limited supply)** at the VE session, to youth that successfully pass their Technician test. This is the result of a very generous donation (Dec. '23) from a BVARC member, THANKS!

Bottom line, a young person for \$5, can walk into a test session and walk out with a new radio and a pending license.

Examination sessions are held each month, most times the first weekend of the month and usually on the same weekend as the Sunday BVARC Board meeting. These testing sessions are at Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074.

Details for candidates are found at <https://bvarc.org/home/ham-radio-license-testing-houston/>

Pre-register to attend a test session at: <https://hamstudy.org/sessions/arrl/77008/inperson>

For questions, Email Mark Janzer, K5MGJ at (k5mgj@yahoo.com).

BVARC reserves a four-hour block for training or programs at Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St, Houston, TX 77074. If you would like to do a program or have a training class, please contact Mike Hardwick, N5VCX at n5vcx@att.net to reserve your date. The classroom is available from 9 AM to 1 PM. The reservation is free to the club and any member can use it. Available Dates in 2024:

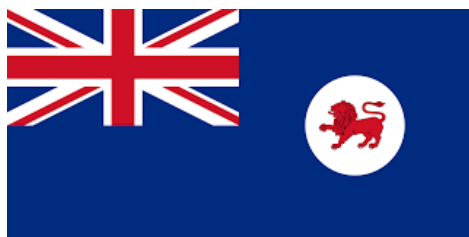
May 18 July 20 August 17 September 21 October 19 November 23 December 28

Where in the World is ...

Tasmania (VK7)

CQ Zone 30 ITU Zone 59

Australia is an interesting place. At the Southeast corner of Australia lies Tasmania. It has a flag with a lion, but no one knows what the lion stands for.



Tasmania is an island state of Australia. It is located 149 miles to the southeast of the Australian mainland, separated from it by the Bass Strait, with the archipelago containing the southernmost point of the country. Tasmania is an island state of Australia. It has a population of 541,000. Its primary industry is tourism.

Port Arthur is a village and historic site in southern Tasmania, Australia. Sitting on the Tasman Peninsula, it was a 19th-century penal settlement and is now an open-air museum. Ruins include the huge penitentiary and the remaining shell of the Convict Church, which was built by inmates. Solitary confinement cells in the Separate Prison building were used to inflict mental punishment in place of floggings.





Another tourist place is Cradle Mountain. Encompassing Tasmania's most famous natural landmark – Cradle Mountain – as well as Australia's deepest lake and seven of the state's 10 highest mountains, Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park is one of Australia's greatest natural treasures. It's a park filled with alpine treats, from abundant wildlife to glacial lakes, to slopes that blush yellow and red in autumn as the deciduous fagus turns in color. Threading through it all is a web of walking tracks, including the celebrated Overland Track.

Australia offers reciprocal licensing for U.S. hams. Except for the power limit which typically is 400 watts for the highest-grade license. The licensing authority is called the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA).

The Wireless institute of Australia (wia.org.au) supports over 15,000 members offering services like the ARRL. QRZ lists over 30,000 callsigns in their data base.

Reporting From the Dark Side
Ron, K5HM



Advertising in the BVARC Newsletter

Rates are as follows: Business card sized ads are \$10 each or 6 monthly installments for \$50; Half (½) page - \$25 per monthly for \$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.

Ham Exam Answer: A. Communications transmitted for hire or material compensation, except as otherwise provided in the rules.



2024 Club Officers

President (2024-2025)
Michael Hardwick N5VCX n5vcx@att.net

Vice President (2023-2024)
Kori Rahman WX5KR kori113@gmail.com

Recording Secretary (2024-2025)
Sean Linkenheimer N5LNK sean.N5LNK@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary (2023-2024)
Jeff Greer W5JEF greerjw@hotmail.com

Treasurer (2023-2024)
David Ely N5EKW davidely@prodigy.net

2 Year At-Large Board Member A (2024-2025)
Terry Leatherland K5PGF k5pgf@yahoo.com

2 Year At-Large Board Member B (2023-2024)
Drew Dasher N1ER adasher18@hotmail.com

1 Year At Large (2024)
Daphne Rawlinson K5VQY
daphne_rawlinson@hotmail.com

River Oaks Car Stereo
Since 1990
4129 Richmond Ave
Houston TX 77027
713-626-7627 -
help@riveroakscarstereo.com
riveroakscarstereo.com

NUSK - Eddie
KBSYTA - Dwayne
KB5OBB - Eddie Jr
KFSRKJ - BLake
WSLIC - Anthony

BVARC EVENTS

Saturday Breakfast 6:30 AM

IHOP Stafford 12725 Southwest Fwy
Stafford, TX 77477

Wednesday Lunch Bunch 11 AM to Noon

Luby's Cafeteria 10575 W Airport Blvd
Stafford, TX 77477

Brews with BVARC 6:30 PM Eureka Heights

Brewery, 941 W 18th St., Houston, TX 77008

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 per year, with student dues \$10 per year, additional family members \$5 per member per year.

Club meetings are both in-person and via Zoom on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. If you have signed up for the email reflector, you will receive notice and the attendance password, etc. It will also be on the website a few days beforehand.

BVARC amateur radio testing 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** please check the BVARC website for any changes.

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

A "Stir Crazy Net" is also held weekdays at 12 Noon on the 146.94 (minus offset, PL 167.9 tone) repeater.

A rag chew net is held each Wednesday at 7 PM on 3910 KHz +/- 3 KHz.

The QuestionAIR Net is held every Tuesday at 7:30 PM on the 146.94 (minus offset, PL 167.9 tone) repeater.

To obtain information about joining BVARC or its activities, see the BVARC website: www.bvarc.org

Other contacts: **BVARC President** Mike Hardwick N5VCX n5vcx@att.net, **Newsletter Editor** Donovan Balli KG5BDZ dballi@mail.com, **Editor Emeritus** John Chauvin K5IZO k5izo@yahoo.com, **Newsletter Printing, Assembly, and Mailing** Mike Hardwick N5VCX n5vcx@att.net, Jeff Greer W5JEF greerjw@hotmail.com, Gokhan Koralturk KG0KHN gokkor@gmail.com

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

Board of Directors Meeting – Sunday May 5, 2024, 5 PM, Zoom

BVARC General Meeting – Thursday May 9, 2024, Community Volunteer Fire Department, 16005 Bellaire Blvd, Houston 77083



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