



BVARC BEACON



Newsletter of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

VOLUME 48 ISSUE 6

JUNE 2024

General Membership Meeting is June 13th at 7:30 PM

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

The program will be Richard Bonica KG5YCU with a review and general planning session for **ARRL Field Day, June 22-23**. The BVARC Food Team is providing Meatball Subs and Chips.

Looking ahead: the July meeting topic will be GMRS.

The BVARC Board of Directors Meeting will be June 9th at 5 PM via ZOOM.

June 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 S : Stir Crazy Net Noon Mon-Fri		P Q S are all on the 146.940 MHz repeater, minus 600kHz offset, 167.9 Hz tone		R : Rag Chew, 3910 kHz, 7 PM Wednesdays T 10-10 Int'l Local SHOT Net, 28.488 kHz, 8 PM		1 Museum Ships Weekend
2 Museum Ships Weekend	3 P S	4 Q S T	5 R S	6 S	7 S	8 VE Testing 10:30 AM Bayland Park
9 BVARC Board Mtg 5 PM Zoom	10 P S	11 Q S T Brews w/ BVARC 6:30 PM	12 R S	13 S BVARC Mtg 7:30 PM	14 S	15
16	17 P S	18 Q S T	19 R S	20 S	21 S	22 ARRL Field Day
23 ARRL Field Day	24 P S	25 Q S T	26 R S	27 S	28 S	29
30						

BVARC participates in **ARRL Field Day 2024** at 17034 Old Richmond Rd, 77498, Sugar Land on June 22-23, 2024. For more information, to volunteer for Friday setup or Sunday teardown, or to schedule time for operating, contact BVARC Field Day Coordinator Richard Bonica (KG5YCU) at KG5YCU@gmail.com.

POTA – Another Houston Parks on the Air event is scheduled for July 20th, 9 AM to 4:30 PM at Sheldon Lake State Park, 14140 Garrett Rd, Houston TX 77044. Park admission is free. The talk in frequency will be (simplex) 146.520 MHz.

Life Members

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

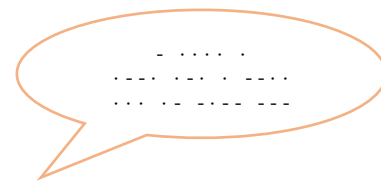
Thomas Larsh – K5TNL Lee Usry – K5BLU

Thank you for your support for the club!

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:

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

The Prez Says



When you read this, summer will only be a couple of weeks away.

Unfortunately, the heat is already here along with the spring storms. Several of you went through days and weeks without power on the storm that affected the greater Houston area on May 16th. Luckily no one in the club was hurt and several of you were able to test out your battery back-ups. By the time the newsletter was printed, the bulk of people that lost power (close to a million) were back on. Hopefully everyone will be better prepared for any future events.

Mark Janzer's, K5MGJ, May 9th program was extremely informative on Museum Ships Weekend (MSWE). Mark coordinates the event for the BVARC along with the several other club members. The MSWE, which will be held on June 1st and 2nd this year at Seawolf Park in Galveston, is a great event and hopefully you make it out to this one. The newsletter will just be coming out before the event so try to make it out if you can. Get with Mark if you would like to volunteer for the event.

On the heels of Museum Ships, is the ARRL Field Day which will be held on June 22nd and 23rd. This year Richard Bonica, KG5YCU, will be coordinating the event so if you would like to help, please drop him an e-mail. Richard will also be doing a presentation on this year's Field Day at the June 13th meeting. Richard is planning some great new additions for Field Day so make it out to the June meeting.

As I mentioned in last month's "The Prez Says", the 146.94 repeater is having an occasional "squirrel" transmitting various noises and cross-banding aircraft communications. If you hear this type of transmission, do not acknowledge it on the repeater. Simply sign-off with whoever you are talking to. The "squirrels" are looking for recognition and by talking about it, it feeds their ego. If you would like to help on locating the offending party, this is what you can do:

1. When the transmissions start, stop yours.
2. Program the repeater input frequency in your radio with no tone. Listen to see if you hear the offender on that frequency.
3. Program the repeater output frequency in your radio with no tone. Listen to see if you hear the offender transmitting on the repeater output.
4. If you hear the offender, send me the location in an e-mail.

The more information I receive (for the team that is searching for the squirrel) the better chance we have of catching him. This has to be a club effort so your help will always be appreciated.

Try to stay cool, and see you at the June 13th general meeting.

73,
N5VCX

Licensee Hit With \$24,000 Fine for Jamming Net, Failure to ID: FCC

An investigation by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) results in a large fine against a California amateur radio license holder. A Notice of Apparent Liability Forfeiture (NALF) for \$24,000 has been filed against Phillip J. Beudet, N6PJB, of Burney, California. According to the filing, the penalty is for Beudet "willfully and repeatedly interfering with the radio communications of the Western Amateur Radio Friendship Association (WARFA) while it was attempting to hold a regularly scheduled net and for failing to provide station identification on amateur radio frequencies." FCC agents used direction finding techniques during November and December of 2022 to track the interfering signals to Beudet's home station. Agents "heard him playing recordings on 3.908 MHz that caused interference to the ongoing WARFA net while failing to provide his assigned amateur call sign," the document stated. – <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-enforcement-bureau-proposes-24k-fine-against-philip-j-beudet>

Next month we'll have an article on the problem of ham radio jammers or squirrels, problems *and* solutions.

Hams Helping Hams -- An Opinion

by Rick -- W5RH

Awhile back in QST magazine, there was an article about the new on-line training that the ARRL is developing. 2 major points jumped out at me during the reading of his informative piece: 1) that most hams, neophyte or not, currently prefer to learn and get information on-line, whether from a web page blog or tutorial or from one of the plentiful video presentations that are available. 2) The other, and probably the more important point, was that the newly licensed hams that did not move on past getting that first license were asked what factor caused them to stop with their interest in Ham Radio. The answer? In a nutshell, lack of guidance. Lack of an Elmer to be there to guide them through the wonderfully diverse realm of Ham Radio, our dearly beloved hobby.

So how does this last statement affect you? 1) you could give a flying flip, 2) let someone else do it, or 3) let's see if I can do something about it. The better answer is number 3. Look....no matter how long we have been in this hobby, we are all an SME -- Subject Matter Expert, an expert to some degree about some aspect of ham radio. Be it RF, DX, propagation, FT-8 or other digital modes, antennas, CW, designing, building, contesting, computers -- HW, SW or application use, SDR's, boat anchors or whatever it might be. We can all claim (hopefully) to be able to assist our fellow ham whether an OM or neophyte in their plight to learn something new in the hobby.

That does not mean that you have to take them into your home and feed them for 3 weeks while they learn. No. But at minimum it means pointing them in the right direction, a web site or a book or a short discussion on the repeater or even meeting for lunch. What is needed might be as minor as an explanation of SWR or HF band plans or where to find DX. What you do just might be the difference between them receiving the kick start that they need or them flaming out and ending up binge watching "Community" on Netflix.

Now....a word to the new or potential Ham in need of assistance (or even the seasoned Ham in need).... the weight of the assistance you are requesting is not fully the burden of the Elmer. You have to first approach the Elmer with a request, then read a few QST articles or books and from that ask pertinent questions. You should show, at least, that you are engaged in the process and willing to discuss your findings with your Elmer. You never know, you just might teach your Elmer a thing or two. Lastly, know that Ham Radio is not a destination; it's a journey. Sometimes it might feel like you are lost in a technical blizzard, but know that the St. Bernard dogs are standing-by ready to bring you a brandy barrel of enlightenment.

I know, as I am well over 50 years in the hobby, starting as a teen knowing nothing, that I have not yet made it to the mountain. Not that there really is a mountain, but I have had many Elmers that have kept me learning and showing me to always take interest in what others are doing in the multitude of aspects of the hobby. Due to the wide diversity of our Amateur Radio hobby, we have an opportunity to delve into many different technical or operational areas of the past, or the future. The choice is yours. So, find, or be, an Elmer today. Read JP's column in the May Beacon. BVARC is looking forward to finding your hand in the air. Place your name, SME area and contact info on the club's Elmer list. You'll be glad you did and so will the rest of BVARC.
73, Rick -- W5RH

HAM EXAM QUESTION

How do the control operator responsibilities of a station under automatic control differ from one under local control?

- A. Under local control there is no control operator
- B. Under automatic control the control operator is not required to be present at the control point
- C. Under automatic control there is no control operator
- D. Under local control a control operator is not required to be present at a control point



Dateline Xenia, Ohio -- May 16 thru 19, 2024

Hamvention 2024 – About 30,000 Amateur Radio licensees gathered at the Greene County Fairgrounds for the past 3 days to partake in the annual Hamvention – the largest Ham Radio gathering in the world. Amateurs from around the USA and the world traveled to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow hams, the displays of the hobby oriented businesses and the seminars offering in depth information about the hobby and its many technical aspects. Plus, the food venues at the Greene County Fairgrounds weren't too shabby either.

A few BVARC'ers and TDXS'ers were observed attending along with a few past speakers and attendees of the Greater Houston HamFest like **Ward Silver, Tim Duffy, Gerald Youngblood, Mike Burnette and Riley Hollingsworth**. All voiced that they would like to consider attending the GHF again in 2025.

Rain over shadowed the Friday early morning crowd, but dissipated in a few hours and the remainder of the WX was quite nice. Although the flea market flooring was a trifle muddy, it was nothing compared to year one at the Greene County Fairgrounds.

Some manufactures like **Flex Radio** made major announcements, but most simply displayed their wares in an inviting fashion that allowed you to touch and feel everything from **Begali CW paddles** and hex beam type antennas to the latest HF radios, many kits for QRP and digital modes and much, much more. Everything Ham Radio oriented was there in multiple showings.

If you have never attended you should consider going. The day before the Hamvention there are a few separate gatherings like **FDIM – Four Days In May** the QRPI technical get together of QRP'ers and the well-attended **Contest University** put on by Tim Duffy's DX Engineering and Icom. These events make it a 4 day long weekend of Ham Radio fun. Hope to see you there next year. If not, please attend one or more of our local ham fests like Texas City, Radio Fiesta, Greater Houston Ham Fest, Orange Hamfest and Belton. All good fun and well worth the multi-hour trip to and from involved. 73....Rick W5RH



BVARC Rag Chew Net

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

04/24/24, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, K5LJ, K5TPC (Bellaire), N5VCM, KF5YYZ (East Bernard), KI5HOC, K5DBL (Manvel), K5IZO/5 (Jasper), AI5KD (Pearland), KI5L (Carson), K5RBC (Lake Jackson).
(12 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 219, SN = 253, A = 8, K = 0 / Band Rpt: FAIR

05/01/24, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, W5VOM, KI5HOC, W5RH, N5VCM, AI5KD (Pearland), K5LJ, W1BG (Katy), N5VEX.
(10 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 130, SN = 104, A = 10, K = 2 / Band Rpt: FAIR

05/08/24, K5LKJ (NCS), K5LJ, W5TKZ, KI5HOC, N5VCM, K5TPC (Bellaire), K5RBC (Lake Jackson), K5DBL (Manvel), W1BG (Katy), W5VOM, WW5PA (T).
(11 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 204, SN = 142, A = 7, K = 2 / Band Rpt: FAIR

05/15/24, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, K5LJ, W5ALW, KI5HOC, K5TPC (Bellaire), W5VOM, K5DBL (Manvel), KI5SKL, K4USN.
(10 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 216, SN = 173, A = 13, K = 3 / Band Rpt: GOOD

(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

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Minutes

May 5th, 2024 @ 5:00pm via Video Conference

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: Chuck KF5UPX, Scott KD5FBA, Eddie NU5K, Richard KG5YCU, Rick W5RH, Rick KG5ITH, Seth KZ5H

Board of Directors Meeting

- ❖ Establish Quorum – Yes
- ❖ Call Meeting to Order – 5:04 PM CST
- ❖ Opening Statement(s) – Thanks to all
- ❖ Emergency Business – none
- ❖ Agenda Review – approved
- ❖ Treasurer’s Report – approved
- ❖ Corresponding Secretary’s Report –reported
- ❖ Old Business
 - Treasurer’s Report from February approved.
 - Expanded Survey for Annual Awards Banquette survey is forthcoming. NMSS willing to give us access to their survey account.
- ❖ Programs
 - Museum Ships – June 1-2 (planning session this Thursday)
 - \$500 budget approved
 - Field Day – June 22-23 (planning session June)
 - Report from Richard
 - Budget up to \$1500 approved
 - July - GMRS
- ❖ Committees
 - Historical Archives –
 - Proposed e-mail distribution list that is out going only for use with official club business such as event advertisement, and newsletters.
- ❖ New Business
 - Daphne – BVARC Events – adding 2 events
 - Monthly restaurant dinner (bringing back) Tues May 28, 9 PM at Saltgrass (Daphne to send blurb to Eddie for website)
 - POTA in July
 - USPS raising first class mail rate to \$0.73; will impact newsletter costs
 - Website committee formation – Mike to get with Eddie and Kori
- ❖ Next Meetings - Pursuant Article V Section G #1 of the Club By-Laws
 - May 9th, 2024 General Meeting @ 7:00pm – Museum Ships
 - June T.B.D., 2024 Board Meeting @ 5:00pm via Zoom
- ❖ Closing Statement(s) Thank you all for coming.
- ❖ Meeting Adjourned – 6:37 PM CST

Recorded by: Jeff Greer – W5JE

The Radio ~~Hotel~~ Radio Marketing Hyperbole

(and a Quad/Delta Array building tip)

by Rick W5RH

With a new radio coming out every other month from the world wide hosts of ham radio equipment manufacturers, it is a confusing mix of terms that describe the benefits of each radio. Their marketing folks due tend to overstate, stretch or just slightly color the truth in order to be better than the other guy and get you to belly up and buy their radio. A definition of these Radio Marketing 101 descriptors is definitely in order.

Just what do they really mean?

Foolproof Operation – There are no provisions for any adjustments

Advanced Design – The advertising agency doesn't understand it all

Field Tested – The manufacturer has no test equipment

Redesigned – The flaws have been fixed (we hope)

Years of Development – Finally got one to work

High Reliability – It worked long enough to ship out

Mixer – A venue for dancing waves of different frequencies.

RIT/XIT – VFO's for your VFO

Stealth – You can't see it (and you can't hear it either)

SWR – Only one S'wers

Return Loss – Misplaced incident power

Remote tuning – Using an ATU that has a slim chance of matching

Center Loaded – A ham with a big gut

Feedpoint – The mouth of a ham with a big gut

These were compiled by me and originally published in the K9YA Telegraph a few years back in Vol 12, Issue 3.

Quad or Delta building tip. If you are in the market for spreaders for building a quad or delta array, Southwest Fertilizer at Bissonnet and Renwick has just what you need. They stock non-metallic, bamboo and plastic plant stalk supporting sticks from 2 feet up to 8 feet long; a literal plethora of assortments of light weight and heavy duty straight sticks. These will accommodate you from 70 cm and 2 mx down to 12 mx or even 15 mx as single sticks. Join two to extend them out as you see fit for that 20 meter quad or delta. Prices are fairly reasonable and will vary, of course, based on length, material and thickness. GL on your loop build.

Enjoy your hobby. 73...Rick W5RH

MAY VE - FCC TESTING SESSIONS RESULTS

For the May 11th test session at Bayland Park - we had 3 candidates and conducted 6 tests

New Licensee:

Mahle, R (Technician – KJ5GKS)

Metcalfe, S (Technician-KJ5GJR)

VEs in attendance – K4USN, K5GOL, K5LJ, and N5EKW – **THANKS!**

Congratulations to All!

The next BVARC test session will be **Saturday, June 8th** 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 the 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 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 Tuesday, June 11th at 6:30pm

No Label Brewing Company
5351 1st St, Katy, TX 77493

Join us for Taco Tuesdays with TX Birria Boyz!

Ham Exam Answer: B. See section 97.109(d):

When a station is being automatically controlled, the control operator need not be at the control point. Only stations specifically designated elsewhere in this part may be automatically controlled.

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
KBSOBB - Eddie Jr
KFSRKJ - Blake
WSLIC - Anthony

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.

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

VOLUME 48, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2024


**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 June 9, 2024, 5 PM, Zoom

BVARC General Meeting – Thursday June 13, 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!*