



BVARC BEACON

Newsletter of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY



VOLUME 50 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2026

From the President's Desk

Mark your calendars and warm up those microphones — the **next BVARC General Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, April 9th**.

Location: Volunteer Firehouse, 16005 Bellaire Blvd, Houston, TX

The focus of this meeting will be **the future of BVARC and our committees**. I would especially like **all committee members** to attend so we can discuss what each group is working on and where we want the club to go from here.

Over the past few weeks, I've received **emails, phone calls, and even a few hallway comments** that suggest some members may have **concerns, ideas, or suggestions** about the club. That's a good thing — it means people care about BVARC.

This meeting is the **right place and the right time** for those thoughts to be shared. Rather than passing comments around second-hand, let's bring them to the meeting so everyone can hear them and we can work together on ideas and solutions for the future.

Think of this meeting as **an open net for the club** — the floor will be open for discussion about committees, activities, and where BVARC is heading.

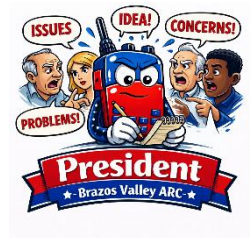
Also, **please bring your youth and family members**. We want them to know that **BVARC is not a secret society** — we value them too, and we would like to hear their ideas as well. This could be a great opportunity to talk about how we can **better include families and younger members in club activities**.

So if you have **ideas, questions, suggestions, or concerns**, please come and share them.

We look forward to seeing everyone there.

73,

Richard
BVARC President



Celebration of Life Service for Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ

April 18th, 2026, 2 - 4 PM, Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston, 77074

Robert was a 20 plus year member of Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club. He was also the Pasadena Radio Relay League repeater trustee for the 146.94 repeater.

Robert also helped many BVARC members over the 20 years from ham radio projects to home repairs and upgrades.

Please try and attend to celebrate the life of Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ.

April 2026 –Amateur Radio Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
R: Rag Chew Net 3910 kHz 7 PM Wed S: Stir Crazy Net Noon Mon-Fri T: 10-10 Net 8 PM Tue			1 R S	2 S	3 S	4 B VE Testing 10:30AM
5 BVARC Board 6:00 PM via Zoom	6 P S	7 S T Brews w/ BVARC 6:30 PM	8 R S	9 S BVARC Meeting 7:30 PM	10 S Belton Hamfest	11 B Belton Hamfest
12	13 P S	14 S T	15 R S	16 S	17 S	18 B Polinski Celebration of Life Ironman Texas
19	20 P S	21 S T	22 R S	23 S	24 S	25 B MS 150
26 MS 150	27 P S	28 S T	29 R S	30 S	B: IHOP Breakfast 6:30 AM Sat P: Public Service Net 8 PM Mon	

4/7/2026 Brews with BVARC, 6:30 - 9 PM. Project Halo Brewing, 6510 FM359 Suite 300, Fulshear, TX 77441.

4/10-11/2026 Ham EXPO Spring 2026 (Belton Hamfest), Fri tailgating, Sat 7 AM – 1:30 PM.

<https://tarc.org/hamexpo-schedule/>. If you miss this one, mark your calendar for October 2-3.

5/16/2026 Houston POTA at Galveston Island State Park, 14901 FM 3005, Galveston TX 77554.

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/galveston-island>.

6/5-7/2026, Museum Ships Week End. More details soon.

6/6-7/2026, DFW Ham Expo 2026, Fri 1 – 6 PM, Sat 8:30 AM – 3 PM. NTX Arena at Vista Mall, 2401 S Stemmons Fwy, Lewisville TX 75067. <https://www.dfwhamexpo.com/>.

6/27-28/2026 ARRL Field Day. Details will be on <https://www.bvarc.org> as plans develop.

Additional Volunteering Opportunities

4/18/2026, 2026 Memorial Hermann IRONMAN Texas. <https://www.woodlands-event-comms.info/events/ironman-texas>. <https://www.ironman.com/races/im-texas>.

4/25-26/2026, Bike MS: ACC Texas MS 150. <https://events.nationalmssociety.org/bike-ms-acc-texas-ms-150-2026>. <https://texasms150hams.org/>.

10/10/2026, The Woodlands 10 for Texas. <https://www.woodlands-event-comms.info/events/10-for-texas>. <https://www.thewoodlandsparks.com/Events/Races/Memorial-Hermann-10-for-Texas>.

Ham Exam Question

At what time of year is sporadic-E propagation most likely to occur?

- A. Around the solstices, especially the summer solstice
- B. Around the solstices, especially the winter solstice
- C. Around the equinoxes, especially the spring equinox
- D. Around the equinoxes, especially the fall equinox

MARCH 2026 VE - FCC TESTING SESSION RESULTS

For the March 7th test session, at Bayland - we had 6 candidates and conducted 9 tests

New Licensee:

Arrazate, R. (Technician) KJ5OVZ
Brouwer, G. (Technician) KH5OXZ
Gordon, G (Technician) KJ5OYB
Kreipe, R. (Technician) KJ5OYA

Upgrade:

Swenson, A. (Extra) N5APS
Williams, R. (Extra) K5RMN

VEs in attendance – K5LJ, K5CWH, W5ICR, K4USN and KG4NDS – **THANKS!**
Congratulations to All!

The next BVARC test session will be at the Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074, on **Saturday May 2nd**, starting at 10:30.

Pre-registration is required (BVARC VE Team).

<https://hamstudy.org/sessions/arrl/77008/inperson>

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. The HT's are 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.

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>

Become a VE! <https://www.arrl.org/become-an-arrl-ve>

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

BVARC Rag Chew Net

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

02/18/26, K5LKJ (NCS), K5LJ, W5ICR, K5DBL (Manvel), K8VD, AA5OA (Percy, AR), W2WF (Katy), KF5OXF (Needville). (9 Check-ins)

Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 119, SN = 43, A = 11, K = 2, Band Rpt: GOOD

02/25/26, K5LKJ (NCS), K5DBL (Manvel), KI5HOC, W5ICR, KARLPH, W5RH, AA0ST (Collins, MO). (7 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 125, SN = 25, A = 13, K = 2, Band Rpt: GOOD

03/04/26, K5LKJ (NCS), K5LJ, KI5HOC, W5ICR, N8QR, AA5OA (Percy, AR), W5KK, KI5ZHD, W5RH, KF5ONT (Conroe), K8VD, W1BG (Katy), WB4KTF (Austin), KA5LPH, KJ5OHN (San Antonio). (16 Check-ins)

Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 141, SN = 71, A = 8, K = 2, Band Rpt: FAIR

03/11/26, K5LKJ (NCS), KI5HOC, K5LJ, W5ICR, K5DBL (Manvel), WW5PA (Rosenberg), W5RH, KA5LPH, K5PGF, WA5CYI (T), AA0ST (Collins, MO). (11 Check-ins)

Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 127, SN = 92, A = 14, K = 2, Band Rpt: GOOD

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

Net conditions have been FAIR to 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

Your Club Needs Your Voice!

BVARC is looking for Net Control Operators! Running a net is one of the best ways to sharpen your "radio muscles" and give back to the hobby. We are currently seeking volunteers for our **Stir Crazy** (Noon daily), **Monday Public Service**, and **Wednesday Ragchew** nets.

Don't worry if you've never run a net before—we'll provide the scripts and the "elmering" to get you comfortable. Help us keep our frequencies active and our community strong. Contact the Net Team today to sign up for a slot!

If you can not RUN as net, at least please check in.

Greater Houston HamFest 2026 Review

The 2026 Greater Houston HamFest is behind us, and it was a success. With over 1100 attendees over the two-day event, the turnout was more than manageable, and everyone had a wonderful time. All the vendors were pleased with their sales and are ready to come back for 2027 (we are back to our March period in 2027. Mark your calendars for March 5th & 6th, 2027).

Organization meetings have already started for the 2027 event with several goals planned for next year. A few of the goals are:

1. **Doors will open 1 hour earlier on Friday.** This has been requested by several of the vendors and will hopefully attract more attendees and vendors.
2. **Web Site to Go Live on October 1, 2026.** This will be for table sales, and admissions.
3. **Management Team for GHHF** The 2027 GHHF will be coordinated by a seven-member management team to better coordinate the event and all the functions. This will allow the event to grow and have back-up for the team managers.
4. **QR Codes for Table Sales and Admissions** A QR code system will be implemented to speed up admissions and better track table purchases.
5. And finally – **work toward 2000 paid admissions!**

A couple of other items that have been started are the Springhill Suites in Rosenberg and in Sugar Land will now offer a year-round rate for GHHF and BVARC members. You can just ask for the BVARC special rate of \$89 per night anytime during the year and you will get the special rate.

Thanks again for your help on the 2026 GHHF. If you are interested on helping on the GHHF management team, please drop me an e-mail at n5vcx@att.net.

73,
Mike Hardwick, N5VCX

Ham Exam Answer: A. Around the solstices, especially the summer solstice (June 21, 2026).

Waves & Coffee – Telegrapher’s Equations - Part II

Oliver Heaviside’s work that enabled telegraphy

By Stephen W2WF

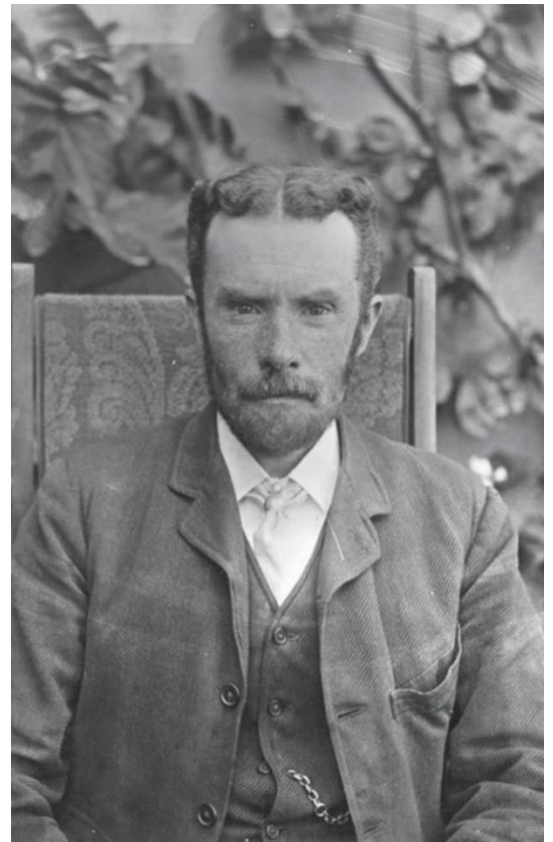
This is the second half of the derivation of the Telegrapher’s equations of Oliver Heaviside. In the first part of this series, we derived the first of the Telegrapher’s equations using Kirchoff’s Voltage Law (KVL) and lumped circuit analysis. This time we’ll use Kirchoff’s Current Law (KCL) and a similar analysis to come up with his second equation.

A reminder of how amazing and fascinating an individual was Oliver Heaviside is in order. He was a scientist who lived in the 1800’s and was mostly self-taught.

He didn’t come from a wealthy family; his dad was a wood engraver. He excelled in natural history at grammar school, like our high school, but did not attend university likely due to financial reasons. This however didn’t slow down his life pursuits; he taught himself advanced mathematics!

Mr. Heaviside had a strong sense of physical intuition which guided his mathematical studies. One result of this work, in addition to many others, was his discovery of a branch of mathematics called “Operational Calculus”. In a nutshell, these are a set of mathematical techniques for solving equations that have derivatives in them by turning them into algebraic equations. The latter are *much* easier to solve than the former. On his own, Mr. Heaviside came up with a variation of the “Laplace transform method” for solving equations with derivatives. This is so useful in applied science that it’s taught as part of the standard undergraduate physics & engineering curriculum. Mind you, he did this without a formal education beyond grammar school! Quite an accomplishment!

If you’d like to join me for the conclusion of the story of the Telegrapher’s Equations, and the math behind it, grab a cup of coffee if you’d like and access the full article at <https://bvarc.org/home/tech-downloads/>



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 Richard Bonica KG5YCU kg5ycu@gmail.com,

Newsletter Editor Donovan Balli KG5BDZ dballi@mail.com,

Editor Emeritus John Chauvin K5IZO k5izo@yahoo.com.

VOLUME 50 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2026


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AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
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SUGAR LAND, TX 77487-2997**

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Board of Directors Meeting – 6 PM Sunday, April 5, 2026, via Zoom

General Membership Meeting – 7:30 PM Thursday, April 9, 2026, 16005 Bellaire Blvd, Houston TX 77083



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