BVARC BEACON

Newsletter of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

VOLUME 50 ISSUE 8 **AUGUST 2026**

BVARC General Meeting

7:30 PM Thursday, August 13, 2026, 16005 Bellaire Blvd, Houston TX 77083

This month's BVARC meeting will be all about HSEEP and our recent radio exercise: what worked, what went sideways, what we learned, and what frequency we move to next.

We expected to test things like:

- How fast everyone could QSY from the repeater to simplex.
- Whether the correct channel could be found before the VFO reached another county.
- How Net Control handled weak signals, doubles, missed traffic, and stations calling from somewhere near the noise floor.
- How far our VHF and UHF simplex signals really traveled.
- Whether the plan still worked after adding actual radios, actual operators, and Murphy's Law.

Come to the meeting and learn the great secret of why two Net Control operators had to be located in double time after a planning "gotcha" appeared on frequency. No spoilers—this traffic will not be passed over the air!

We will discuss what needs better training, what needs to be programmed, what needs more testing, and what we should do for the next exercise.

During the second half, we will help members program their mobile radios with the important repeater, simplex, alternate, and backup frequencies they may need if they must leave quickly.

Bring your radio, programming cable, laptop, software, manual, and the patience required to navigate menus designed by engineers who clearly never met a human operator.

Come for the HSEEP review, stay for the radio programming, and bring your best "I was listening on the input frequency" story.

73, Richard Bonica KG5YCU

August 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 **B:** IHOP Breakfast 6:30 AM Sat		**P:** Public Service Net 8 PM Mon **O:** OFARC 2m Net 8 PM Tues		1 **B** VE Testing 10:30AM
2 BVARC Board Mtg 6 PM Zoom	3 **P S**	4 **S T O**	5 **R S**	6 **S**	7 **S**	8 **B**
9	10 **P S**	11 **S T O** Brews w/ BVARC	12 **R S**	13 **S** BVARC Meeting 7:30 PM	14 **S**	15 **B**
16	17 **P S**	18 **S T O**	19 **R S**	20 **S**	21 **S**	22 **B**
23	24 **P S**	25 **S T O**	26 **R S**	27 **S**	28 **S**	29 **B**
30	31 **P S**	1 **S T O**	2 **R S**	3 **S**	4 **S**	5 **B** VE Testing 10:30AM
6	7 **P S** BVARC Nets move to 146.88 PL 167.9	8 **S T O** Stir Crazy Net Noon 146.88 →	9 **R S** New net repeater →	10 **S** BVARC Meeting 7:30 PM →	11 **S** Stir Crazy Net Noon 146.88 PL 167.9	12 **B**

9/7/2026 BVARC Nets move to 146.88 Repeater PL tone 167.9. Monday Night Public Service Net 8 PM and Stir Crazy Net Noon Mon-Fri.

10/2-3/2026 Belton HamExpo, https://tarc.org/hamexpo-schedule/.

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.

10/16-18/2026 BSA Jamboree on the Air, https://www.jotajoti.info/.

ARRL Conventions in August

August 7-8 Shreveport-Bossier Hamfest, ARRL Delta Division Convention, Shreveport LA

August 13-16 Northeast HamXposition, ARRL New England Division Convention, Marlborough MA

August 15 Cincinnati Hamfest, ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention, Owensville OH

August 22-23 Huntsville Hamfest, 2026 ARRL National Convention, Huntsville AL

August 28-30 Wyoming HamCon, ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention, Casper WY

Ham Exam Question

Who is responsible for the proper conduct and necessary supervision during an amateur operator license examination session?

A. The VEC coordinating the session
B. The designated monitoring VE
C. Each administering VE
D. Only the VE session manager

JULY 2026 VE - FCC TESTING SESSIONS RESULTS

For the July 11th test session, at Bayland Park - we had 1 candidate and conducted 2 tests

New Licensee:

Robertson, R. (Technician) KJ5RDF

VEs in attendance – K5GOL, K5LJ, W5WO and KG4NDS – **THANKS!**

Congratulations to All!

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The next BVARC test sessions will be at the Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074, on **Saturday August 1st and September 5th,** starting at 10:30 am.

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 HTs 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.

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
Become a VE! https://www.arrl.org/become-an-arrl-ve
For questions, Email Mark Janzer, K5MGJ at (k5mgj@yahoo.com).

Waves & Coffee –

The coaxial cable

A mathematical look at the COAX cable

By Stephen W2WF

The coaxial cable, or coax, is well known to amateur radio operators around the world. It is a versatile and sturdy transmission line that hams typically use from their transceiver out to the feed point of their antenna. It is so widely used that, at times, we may take this amazing bit of hardware for granted.

We previously looked at the analysis of the transmission line undertaken by Oliver Heaviside. His was the amazing story of a self-taught physicist and engineer from England in the 19th century who went against conventional wisdom and helped make the transatlantic cable a reality. His analysis used "lumped parameters" which are typically used in electronic circuits. These lumped parameters are inductors, resistors, capacitors that are taken as ideal components. In other words, we neglected thermal effects, field effects, geometry and assumed that our lumped parameters were *well behaved, linear, idealized components*.

We saw how Heaviside's analysis of the transmission line resulted in the concept of characteristic impedance Z_o. We concluded by computing Z_o of a coax cable to be equal to 50 ohms.

In this column we'll take a different approach. In particular we won't use lumped parameters but rather attack the coax transmission line problem starting from $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{B}$ fields. When we talk about $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{B}$ fields, the equations that govern them are, of course, Maxwell's equations.

"Field equation analysis" may sound like a very difficult read but let me reassure you by telling you that we'll go step by step; furthermore, the simple coax geometry will work in our favour.

So, let's do the physics! Let's derive the formula for the capacitance and inductance of a coax cable and then get our characteristic impedance... the Maxwell way!

If you're keen on delving into this fascinating topic, grab yourself a cup of coffee, or tea, and let's do the physics. If you'd like to read the complete article, please access it at https://bvarc.org/home/tech-downloads/

Ham Exam Answer: C. Each administering VE

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 8 **AUGUST 2026**

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

BRAZOS VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
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SUGAR LAND, TX 77487-2997

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Board of Directors Meeting – 6 PM Sunday, August 9, 2026, via Zoom
General Membership Meeting – 7:30 PM Thursday, August 13, 2026, 16005 Bellaire Blvd, Houston TX 77083

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