



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

January 2002

Volume 25, Issue 1

BVARC BANQUET A SUCCESS!

The BVARC annual awards banquet held at the Old San Francisco Steak House on Friday, January 4, was a huge success with attendance exceeding last year's turnout by far. A few folks complained about the quality versus the price and perhaps next year we can locate a less expensive package with similar flair. I feel we can also slide back the starting time an hour so everyone can get a chance to go home from work and put on their party attire. Please feel free to let the Board know where there might be a good banquet venue offering.

My thanks to Ross Lawler, W5HFF, for coming onboard to collect payments at the door, and Cam Mitchell, K5CAM, for handling name tags. One excellent report I received was that "the steak was the best one I've had ever, anywhere." For those who couldn't be there we are sorry because everyone seemed to really enjoy renewing family friendships and making new friends. I promised "Pump Handle" not to bug him anymore about where I could find him in the phone book. I also was given an unconfirmed but disturbing report that a mashed potato food fight broke out at the table where Anita Kirk's husband was, no names revealed however.

Can I also mention that our president almost fell out of his chair when it was discovered that the **Order of the Key** was unanimously voted to him, behind his back. Such shady dealings we do on the Board! And well deserved! Congratulations to KD50!

73 from your Treasurer-KC5EEU

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Check the renewal date on the mailing label and make sure that your membership is up to date. We will be working on the database and purging all non-members. Send in your dues today so you won't miss out on the newsletter. Lifetime memberships are also available.

PREZ SEZ:

As we start a new year, we start with a new look for the BVARC newsletter. Let me know what you think about it. Drop me an e-mail at n5vcx@worldnet.att.net and let me know your ideas you have about the newsletter, the club, even amateur radio. This is your club and I want to work with everyone in the club to make it even a better one!

As the new year starts out, there are many activities coming up for the year. There are many contests held through-out the year with the big one, Field Day in June. BVARC was the highest scoring 5A Texas station in last year's Field Day, so come on out and help with the hobby. If you only have a 2 meter rig, check out a few of the other repeaters in town. If you have a UHF radio, listen to the I-Net repeater on 444.250 MHz. This repeater is connected to the Internet and you can talk to stations all over the world. I talked to a Hawaiian station a

few days ago, while we were both on our way to work.

Remember Amateur Radio has many areas of interests. One of the best reasons is to meet people from different locations and different interests. Only you can make the hobby continue and grow.

So dust off the radio and make a few contacts. Check out some of the local repeaters linked to others in the state or the US. Become an Elmer to a local Scouting group. Show everyone Amateur Radio is a hobby that can benefit the community.

73's
N5VCX



KD50 accepts the **Order of the Key**, BVARC's highest award

SILENT KEY

Elton Kytle, NO5C, a long time member of Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, became a Silent Key Saturday, January 26, 2002, at the age of 77.

Elton was a veteran of World War II as was the recipient of the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Elton is survived by his wife of 57 years, Martha Kytle, son Gerald L. Kytle, daughter Joyce Lehmann and husband Allen, and five grand children and three great grandchildren.

2002 Club Officers:

President:

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
n5vcx@worldnet.att.net

Vice President:

Robert Moore, KK5UO
kk5uo@hal-pc.org

Treasurer:

Rex Ritz, KC5EEU
icrex@yahoo.com

Corresponding Secretary:

Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM
k5cam@arrl.net

Recording Secretary:

Bill Allen, KC5IIU
william_allen@csicontrols.com

One Year Board Member:

John Gilmore, AC5TL
johnnygilmore_1999@yahoo.com

Two Year Board Member:

Paul Gray, N0JAA
n0jaa@aol.com

Three Year Board Member:

Ross Lawler, W5HFF
w5hff@juno.com

Past President:

Kevin Foto, KD5O
foto@texas.net

Club Happenings:

General Meeting

Second Thursday each month at the
Sugar Land Community Center
226 Matlage Way
Sugar Land, Texas

Board of Directors Meeting

First Tuesday of each month at the
Sugar Land Community Center

Volunteer Examiner Program

BVARC administers Amateur License
Exams on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.
Contact John Moore, KK5NU

Eating Schedule

Third Friday Dinner at 6:30.
Location announced in the calendar.

Saturday morning breakfasts –

→7:30 AM Viking Den,
90A in Stafford

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB **Board of Directors Meeting –December 4, 2001**

President Kevin Foto called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. with a quorum.

Those in attendance were:

President Kevin Foto-KD5O, Corresponding Secretary John Whiteman-K5LKJ, Cameron Mitchell - K5CAM, 3-Year Director Paul Gray-N0JAA, 2-year board member Mike Hardwick - N5VCX, Vice President Claude Sessions - K5HFF, Past President Larry Jacobson-K5LJ, Club Elmer Ross Lawler-W5HFF, John Gilmore-AC5TL

Recording Secretary Report by Bill Allen-KD5IIU: Was not present due to personal reasons.

Corresponding Secretary Report by John Whiteman-K5LKJ: As of December 4th the club had 126 members with 77 in the ARRL, 17 life members and 16 family members.

Treasurer Report by Rex Ritz - KC5EEU: Was not present due to personal reasons. His report was submitted by President Kevin Foto and was approved unanimously.

Vice President Report by Claude Sessions-K5HFF: Claude Sessions presented the Board an inventory of the club equipment. Club business cards with the names of key members were discussed. A proposition for a committee to handle such things as cards and flowers was discussed. A suggestion for members to write up a one paragraph bio of HAM experience for the newsletter or QRZ?

Presidential Report by Kevin Foto-KD5O: Stated he would get a sympathy card for Henry WB5IIB and would pass it around to be signed at the next general meeting. Kevin proposed the club subsidize the January awards banquet for \$5.00 per person

3-Year Director Paul Gray- N0JAA: Paul reported that there are still field day pins which have not been claimed.

New Business: Claude sessions moved that on January 1, 2002 John Gilmore-AC5TL fill the position vacated by Mike Hardwick-N5VCX, who was elected President for 2002. Larry Jacobson seconded motion. Award nominations were discussed.

Motion was made to adjourn by Larry Jacobson and was seconded by John Whiteman. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary Bill Allen-KD5IIU

The BVARC Board of Directors would like to thank **Lockard & White Telecommunications Engineers** for the production of the newsletter. Thanks to their generosity, portions of the newsletter will now be in color.

BVARC PUBLIC SERVICE NET

Doug Woodruff, KC5VYZ - Coordinator

The BVARC Public Service Net meets every Monday night on 145.47 (123 PL) at 9:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

11/5 - 25 check-ins with Cam as NET control
11/12 - 24 check-ins with Jack as NET control
11/19 - 16 - check-ins with Jack as NET control
11/26 - 32 - check-ins with Cam as NET control
12/3 - 24 - check-ins with Doug as NET control
12/10 - 29 - check-ins with Jack as NET control
12/17 - 16 - check-ins with Cam as NET control
12/31 - 8 - check-ins with Cam as NET control
1/14 - 22 - check-ins with Kevin as NET control

THE BVARC RAG CHEW NET

December 2001 by Sam Wilson, N5CPA

3.960MHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00PM

PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE

FROM 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Just WHAT IS the Rag Chew Net? Well it's a chance for you to get on the low bands and hang out with other BVARC members, as well as hams from round the south central US! WHAT?? Don't have voice privileges? Got a short-wave receiver? Dial in & listen, then check in using the telephone number announced at the beginning of each net.

12/05/01--N5CPA, K5CEK, K5VRJ, AB5BA, W5GHK, K5LJ, WB5SRN, WD5FFY, N5VXU, KG4PIH, K5JWM, KC5SUI, KD5PZT. (13)

12/12/01--N5CPA, K5CEK, KD5PZT, K5JWM, K5LJ, WN5A, KM5HP, KB5F, K5VRJ, AB5BA, W5GHK, (11)

12/19/01--N5CPA, K5CEK, KE5SR, WB5SRN, K5LJ, K5JWM. (6)

12/26/01--N5CPA, K5CEK, N5VXU, K5LJ, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KD5JLV. (7)

SCANNER JACK'S CORNER

Here are frequencies for local TV & radio traffic reports.

450.0875 Ch 2 450.2875 Ch 2 450.5125 Ch11

450.8625 Ch 13 455.9125 93Q TRAFFIC

450.2125 TRANSTAR TRAFFIC *NEW*

450.3125 KRBE 104 TRAFFIC

450.7125 METRO TRAFFIC

464.2000 TRANSTAR TRAFFIC

15376 TRANSTAR I.D. ON HARRIS CO. T.R.S.

Next month's article will be on Fort Bend county's 800 MHz trunk system.

SCANNER JACK

Jack Roberts, KB5TMY

AMATEUR RADIO TESTING

BVARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION

for January 16th

By John Moore, KK5NU

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio exam session that was held Wednesday, January 16, 2002 at Houston Community College Scarcella Technology Campus in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Carl Albrecht, AA5JW

John Dryton, KM5HP

Larry Jacobson, K5LJ

John Moore, KK5NU

Mark Winslett, KM5WR

Five examination elements were administered during the course of the evening to five applicants. Two unlicensed candidate received new Technician licenses; one Technician upgraded to General; a second passed Element 3; and an Advanced upgrade to Extra Class with the total number of elements passed being 5. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

Congratulations to all the following who upgraded and/or passed exams:

Billy G. Ashenhart	-		- Technician
Milton L. Hooper	-	KG5VU	- Extra
Stephen A. Hunt	-	KC5TZX	- Element 3
Kenneth R. Lee	-		- Technician
Garland C. Sparks, Jr.	-	KD5QDA	- General

Many thanks to all the Team Members and Assistants who volunteer their valuable time and effort each month.

All of us at BVARC again thank everyone at HCC Scarcella Technology Center for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

..... 73

STORAGE USA[®]

Mark A. Austin
Diane Austin
Management Team

2222 SW FREEWAY
HOUSTON, TX 77098

PHONE (713) 807-0900
FAX (713) 807-7134
www.sus.com

BVARC TRIBAL KNOWLEDGE

January 12, 2002

The following is an edited version of information presented to the 2002 BVARC Board of Directors. This is club information that is asked about by new members as well as old members. I want to thank John Moore for compiling this information.

*Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
2002 BVARC President*

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC) is classified as a 501C-7 non-profit organization by the IRS.

By letter dated December 14, 1979, the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts determined that BVARC met the state requirements for exemption as a charitable organization; with the authority to issue exemption certificates in lieu of the Limited Sales, Excise and Use Tax on taxable items to be actually used by the organization itself.

The club currently has a 10'x10' Storage unit #A-09 that is furnished to us at no cost by StorageUSA located at 2222 Southwest Freeway, intersection with Greenbriar, in southwest Houston. The club's property and equipment is stored in that room.

BVARC has three (3) e-mail addresses; w5dpa@arrl.net -- this is an aliased address with the mail forwarded to our HAL-PC account -- bvarc@hal-pc.org Our homepage is on the HAL server at: <http://hal-pc.org/~bvarc>.

There is also a backup e-mail account at: kc5oig@juno.com.

Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club furnishes the club with two (2) listserv accounts: bvarc@clarc.org is a general mail reflector -- any one may subscribe to it. bvarcbod@clarc.org is a 'closed' reflector; Bruce Paige, KK5DO maintains it for the use of the Board of Directors.

The VE team supervises and gives monthly license exams at Houston Community College, Scarcella Technology Campus, 10141 Cash Rd, Stafford, TX on the second Tuesdays of each month.

KC5OIG is the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club's callsign -- issued to expire May 4, 2005 -- We also hold W5DPA which is the Houston Amateur Radio Club callsign -- issued to expire June 3, 2009. Randy Pollard, AK5G is the Trustee for both of these.

BVARC has filed a d/b/a in the office of the Harris County Clerk under the name Houston Amateur Radio Club. This is for a 10 year period to expire in the Spring of 2009. HARC's affiliation with the ARRL dates to December 5, 1919

BVARC's ARRL affiliation dates to November 19, 1980 -- with our Special Service Club designation as of August 14, 1984.

Larry Levy, WD5DRB is the unofficial 'Club Historian' and is the keeper of some of our artifacts.

Presented to the BOD meeting of January 10, 2002 by John Moore, KK5NU

E P O	ELECTRONIC PARTS OUTLET
	ELECTRONICS / COMPUTERS & MORE
	THE ELECTRONIC SOURCE
	3753 FONDREN HOUSTON, TEXAS 77063 713 784-0140 713 784-9740 fax STORE MANAGER KEN TURNER
	17776 TOMBALL PKWY HOUSTON, TEXAS 77064 281 807-9600 281 774-0830 fax STORE MANAGER RICK ZAMARRIPA
	SHIP TO WAREHOUSE: 9101 LIPAN HOUSTON, TX 77063 713 787-0599 713 268-1044 fax

KK5DO ON AMSAT-NA BOARD

Bruce Paige, KK5DO, is the newest member of the AMSAT-NA Board of Directors. Paige, a first alternate, acceded to the Board upon the resignation of Andy MacAllister, W5ACM, who stepped down because of a heavy professional workload.

Paige and MacAllister, who both live in Houston, will continue to collaborate on the weekly Houston AMSAT Net. Paige will serve out the remainder of MacAllister's term, which runs through September. AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, has appointed Paige to also replace MacAllister as vice president of user services. Paige will continue as AMSAT-NA's awards manager.

BREAKFAST LOCATION CHANGE

Lou, W5IHY, can't make it to breakfast with us any more, and Charley, KG5KV, has gone to Egypt on a job for an extended period of time. Dick, KB5WZI, and I are the only regulars still eating at the New York Coffee Shop on Saturday mornings. So we have decided to join the group at the Viking Den in Stafford for future Saturday breakfasts.

Please pass it on to everyone about the change.

Thanks,

Sam Wilson, N5CPA

HAM RADIO NET MANAGING

by Doug Woodruff, KC5VYZ

Have you ever listened to or checked into a net on ham radio? If so, then have you wondered what it would be like to run a net? I think when most people answer that second question, their first reaction is 'No way. I would totally mess it up.' and then fear sets in to prevent one from even thinking about taking on the challenge.

Well what if your fear vanished? Would you want to take the microphone and start with those three letters 'QST, QST'? Hopefully, I can help put that fear to rest, but you have to do the rest. OK, what is a net? I think it could best be summed up is a forum for the transfer of information from a few individuals to many. This information, or traffic, is basically anything that might be considered relevant to a topic in the scope of the purpose of the net, such as messages, events, news or just new ideas.

What's so scary about that? Really nothing because we all do that everyday we are here. Now that you know what a net is and its' purpose, what does the net control operator do? This persons job is to simply get the net started at a pre-determined time and radio frequency by simply following an outline that accomplishes the purpose of the net. The control operator acts as the meeting manager to keep chaos from ruling. Everyone listening in is a participant even if they never transmit a thing.

You can start learning how to run a net by participating in as many nets as you can to get the feel of the protocol and the type of traffic being discussed on the net. If the net is being used as a club function, you may have to be a member of the club to run the net, but most are open and encourage everyone to check in and participate in discussions of relevance. Well is that fear vanishing? I hope so. What now? Next I suggest taking on the task of just doing part of a net such as a special section.

You might discuss a technical matter or ask a question to the net to find out information. You could contact the net coordinator and see what jobs you could do during a net to get more comfortable. Remember, everyone has to start with the first word and the fear will vanish fast. Well I have an opportunity for you. The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Public Service net meets every Monday evening at 9:00pm on 145.470 MHz in Houston. Nets are fun to check into and run. We are looking for new members to the club and any club member is encouraged to think about running the net that wants to take a crack at it.

Of course everyone is encouraged to check in that has a ham radio license. We provide a basic script

that makes it easy. You will be surprised at how soon you can throw the script away and just have basic fun on ham radio.

73's and see you on the nets.

Doug Woodruff, KC5VYZ

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

There are a few events coming up in the next few months, so get your radio ready. Carl Hacker, KB5LDY, had over 100 operators for the Marathon this year. Carl told me that he had lost a number of volunteers and was very concerned that he might have not had enough operators for the event.

If you would like to get your feet wet on working events, the BlueBonnet Bike ride in March is the one for that. It is a very easy event to work and it finishes around 2:00 p.m.

The Tour-de-Cypress Bike ride in April is a little bit harder to handle but it is still a good event to practice in.

The MS150 Bike Ride is the event that you really work hard on. With over 9,000 riders expected this year, it is one event that is truly a communications training ground. On this event just about every type of amateur communications is used from HF to UHF to APRS.

So come on out and put your radio and license to very good use.

Mike
N5VCX

BlueBonnet Bike Ride

March 17th, 2002
Hempstead, Texas
6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Tour de Cypress Bike Ride

April 7th, 2002
Houston/Katy, Texas
5:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Ride

April 20th & 21st, 2002
Houston, Bellville, LaGrange, Bastrop, Austin
5:00 a.m. on the 20th to 7:00 p.m. on the 21st

Do you have anything for the BVARC Calendar? Let us know and we will post it.

BVARC Calendar - February 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den
3	4 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	5	6 HF Net 7:00 pm 3960 +/-3KHz	7 BOD Meeting 7:30 pm	8	9 Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den
10	11 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	12 VE Session 6:30 pm	13 HF Net 7:00 pm 3960 +/-3KHz	14 Club Meeting 7:30 pm	15 Dinner at Tio Pepe's- 6:30	16 Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den
17	18 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	19	20 HF Net 7:00 pm 3960 +/-3KHz	21	22	23 Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den
24	25 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	26	27 HF Net 7:00 pm 3960 +/-3KHz	28		

BVARC Calendar - March 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den
3	4 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	5	6 HF Net 7:00 pm 3960 +/-3KHz	7 BOD Meeting 7:30 pm	8	9 Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den
10	11 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	12 VE Session 6:30 pm	13 HF Net 7:00 pm 3960 +/-3KHz	14 Club Meeting 7:30 pm	15 3 rd Friday Dinner	16 Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den
17 BlueBonnet Bike Ride	18 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	19	20 HF Net 7:00 pm 3960 +/-3KHz	21	22	23 Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den
24	25 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	26	27 HF Net 7:00 pm 3960 +/-3KHz	28	29	30 Breakfast 7:30 Viking Den

2002 BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB BANQUET



Is WN5A thinking that it is time for another cold one?



Pose for another picture! I wished I had a dime for



How did I get this job? I just wanted to eat!



And this gives me what?



Pose for another picture! I wished I had a dime for....





**Monthly Publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.
Amateur Radio for Southwest Houston and Fort Bend County**

Club Callsign - KC5OIG

BVARC's Website: <http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc>

Editor in Chief: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, k5cam@arrl.net

**Production Team: Claude Sessions, K5HFY, claudes@juno.com
John Moore, KK5NU, jwm@hal-pc.org**

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC) was organized in 1978, primarily as an emergency communications group available to assist the communities of Missouri City and Stafford, when required. Since that time, BVARC has grown and expanded its activities to become the most active Amateur radio club in the Southwest Houston and Fort Bend county areas.

Today, BVARC is truly a general interest club with an impressive record of Public Service. The Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) has recognized the club's commitment to service with the coveted status of Special Service Club. We are proud of our members who represent some of the finest in Amateur Radio. Membership is not limited to licensed operators, but is open to anyone with an interest in Amateur Radio. Meetings are held generally at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, at the Sugar Land Community Center. Talk-in assistance is available in the 145.470, and 444.550 MHz (PL 123.0) repeaters. Membership dues are \$16 annually.

BVARC conducts A.R.R.L. VEC license exam sessions on the second Tuesday of each month. BVARC also conducts a Public Service Net at 9:00 P. M. each Monday on the 145.470 and 444.55 (MERA) repeaters.

To obtain information about the club, its activities, or about joining BVARC, contact John, K5LKJ, at 281-530-0432. New members and prospective hams should contact the Club's "Elmer", Ross, W5HFF at 281-342-3340 or w5hff@juno.com.

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 1

January 2002

**BRAZOS VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 1630
MISSOURI CITY TX 77459-1630**

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Amateur radio is one of the few hobbies that allows you to really touch the entire world.