



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

APRIL 2002

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 4

FIRST ROAD TRIP FOR CLUB OLLE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

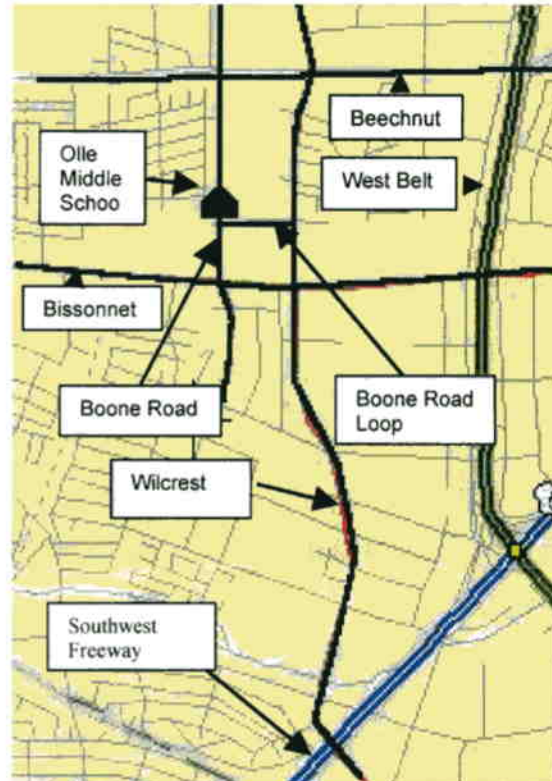
This month's meeting will be at Olle Middle School in Alief (See map at right). Come on out and see the school's station. Talk-in will be the MERA 145.470 repeater. This is the type of project that all of us need to support to help promote amateur radio. Even with cellular phones and the Internet, kids are still interested in amateur radio. If we want the hobby to continue, educating children is the only way.

Mike,
NSVCX



Come one, come all to the May BVARC meeting at my School, Olle Middle School. Come to the back of the building under the antenna between 6 and 10 p.m. to see the station.

**DON'T FORGET FIELD DAY JUNE 22 & 24
AT GEORGE BUSH PARK! CONTACT PAUL,
N0JAA TO VOLUNTEER!**



Olle Middle School Radio Club was started in 1999 which was my first year at Olle. I was looking for something to help encourage students to stay in school and maybe at least complete High school. I knew Ham radio could do the job but the equipment was the problem. I took my 746 every day and installed a mini-quad up on the roof along with a long wire. This worked OK, but wasn't enough. I had only three students that showed interest in amateur radio.

These three 8th graders asked a very good question, "Why when there was not club or station at school?" I knew that was a problem not having something permanent so I kept looking for equipment to set up a permanent station. A QST article had the answer. Just write a grant request, add some luck and receive a complete station. Since writing is not my best thing, both of my daughters, one who is KA2UCA, helped me write the grant.

After seven months, we found out that we did it! Olle Middle School now has a radio to start building a club station. Before I knew it, and with the help of several Brazos Valley members, the antenna, tower and all the extra hardware was installed.

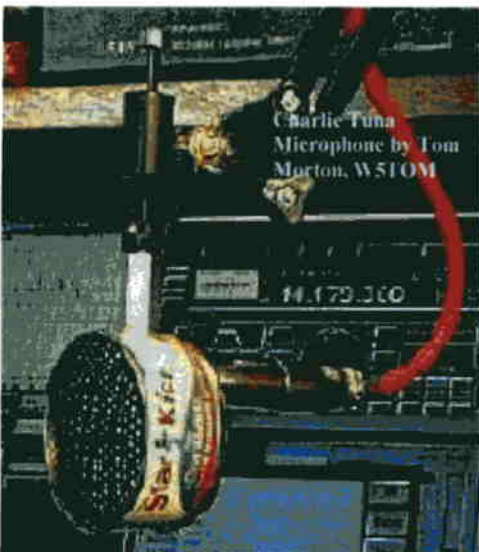
When school started this last August, I had planned to have a small class for ham radio but the class ended up with 32 students! I gave the class my best shot but so many of the kids were uninterested, the class just died a slow death. Three students tried to hang in there but finals and girls knocked them out. Most boys are in sports after school and had no time. I was lost on what to do to get more interest.

Some were still interested in at least listening to the radio. I hope this will keep some interest in amateur radio. I have asked for a class period to try another amateur radio class but so far no reply.

This program needs your support in all areas of amateur radio. This is an open invitation to come by the school whenever you can to see the club station. If you live in Alief ISD, contact the school board and tell them about amateur radio. If you have an old rig that you would like to donate to the school, please contact me.

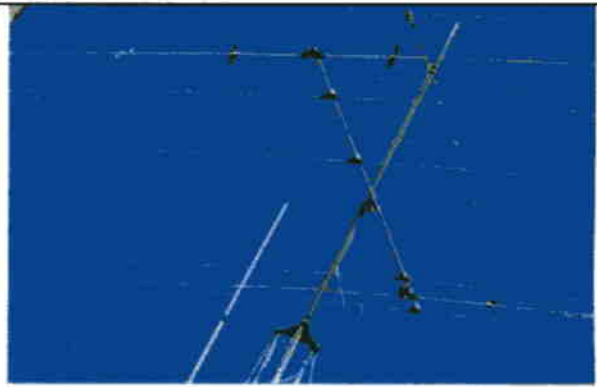
Frosty
K5LBU

A big thanks to Tom Morton, W5TOM, for a wonderful program in April on homemade microphones. Here are couple of his "creations".



**YOU CAN USE THAT TUNA CAN
FOR A MICROPHONE!**

Close-up of the Olle Middle School antenna



MS150 COMMAND POST STAFF SURVIVES



Thanks to the hard work from all of the volunteers on the MS150 Bike Tour. Ten Thousand riders is a lot of work!
Mike, N5VCX

Tom gets some of his best microphone bases from Guess what he is using here.



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, KC5IUU
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-
May 9 on a Field Trip to see
Frosty's
Installation at Olle Middle School,
9200 Boone Road (See Map)

Board of Directors Meeting

First Thursday 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,
Hwy 90A in Stafford

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Board of Directors Meeting - April 4th, 2002

President Mike Hardwick called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. with a quorum.

In attendance were President Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, Past President Kevin Foto, KD5O, Treasurer Rex Ritz, KC5EEU, Corresponding Secretary Cameron Mitchell -K5CAM, 2-Year Director /Field Day Director Paul Gray-N0JAA, 3-Year Director Ross Lawler-W5HFF, Recording Secretary Bill Allen-KD5IUU, Clause Sessions-K5HFY.

Treasurer Report by Rex Ritz, KC5EEU: (The Treasurer's Report is available for members from any of the Board of Directors.)

Club membership dues were discussed. Various club financial concerns were discussed. Discussed the clubs insurance policy expiration date of September 1st 2002. Paul Gray made a motion to pass the report and was seconded by Mike Hardwick. Motion then passed unanimously

Recording Secretary Report by Bill Allen, KD5IUU: The BVARC BOD would like to thank Connie Brier for handling the February minutes. Reviewed the March 2002 BOD minutes. Motion made by Ross Lawler and seconded by Kevin Foto to approve March 2002 with corrections. Motion then carried unanimously.

Corresponding Secretary Report by Cameron Mitchell -K5CAM: Stated we have 132 total members and 13 lifetime members.

Vice President Report by Robert Moore-KK5UO: was not present due to personal reasons. Discussed details of the next club program. Tom Morton -W5TOM, will give the program on Microphones and Audio. Field Day details were discussed.

3-Year Director Ross Lawler-W5HFF: The BVARC Extra class training class was discussed. He noted the classes were being given on Monday nights at St. Paul's Church on Bellaire in the classrooms from 7-9 p.m.

2-Year Director Paul Gray-N0JAA: The field day committee has only 7 members and he is asking for more volunteers. Food and entertainment details committee was discussed. The Treasurer has ordered twenty field day pins. The ARRL has stated that all North and South Americas will be eligible contacts for this year's field day contest

1-Year Director John Gilmore-AC5TL: was not present due to personal reasons.

Past Presidential Report by Kevin Foto-KD5O: Discussed details of the next club program. Tom Morton -W5TOM, will give the program on Microphones and Audio. Field Day details were discussed.

Web Site committee: Online newsletter options were discussed. HAL-PC web links to additional pages were discussed.

Emergency Business: Details on posting a notification on the Sugar Land Community Center of meeting move were discussed. Details on monitoring both 145.470 and 444.55 machines for any one needing directions were discussed. Contacting our guest speaker of the location was discussed.

Old Business: Received and pending receipts from the Banquet awards were discussed.

New Business: The Sugar Land Emergency Operations Center was discussed and is going well. The May general meeting will be a road trip to Ollie Middle School - K5OMS. Book audit turnover to Randy Pollard, AK5G is due this month. Membership drive ideas were discussed. Sending newsletters to past members was discussed. Creating QSL cards for Field Day events were discussed. HCC possibilities and status were discussed. A portable BVARC library display with ARRL series books was discussed Tailgate swap meet rules were discussed. The club's tax exemption changes were discussed. Motion was made to adjourn by Rex Ritz and was seconded by Ross Lawler. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:23pm.

The BVARC Board of Directors would like to thank **Lockard & White Telecommunications Engineers** for the production of the newsletter with portions of it 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. Check-ins and that night's net control:

3/4 - 24 - Cam, K5CAM
3/11 - 28 - Kevin, KD5O
3/18 - 28 - Joe, K5JWM
3/25 - 23 - Doug, KC5VYZ
4/1 - 34 - Jack, WN5A
4/8 - 28 - Doug, KC5VYZ
4/15 - 25 - Joe, K5JWM
4/22 - 27 - Jack, WN5A

**Complete
Computer
Solutions**

Services and Products:
Custom Built Computers
Repairs/Upgrades
Network Design/Installation
Components/Software/Accessories

345 Dulles Ave., Suite B
Stafford, Tx 77477
Phone 281-261-5220

THE BVARC RAG CHEW NET

March 2002 by Sam Wilson, N5CPA

PLEASE NOTE FREQUENCY CHANGE FROM 3960 KHz

3962.5 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00PM

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 around the south central US! WHAT?? Don't have voice privileges? Got a short-wave receiver? Dial in and listen, then check in using the telephone number announced at the beginning of each net.

3/06/02--N5CPA, K5CEK, KE5SR, K5LJ, N5VXU, WC5S, K5VRJ, AB5BA, K5JWM, KD5O. (10)

3/13/02--N5CPA, K5CEK, K5LBU, KK5UO, WD8RZA, KF5HP, N5VXU, W20EZ, K5HFY, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KE5SR, WC5S, K5JWM. (14)

3/20/02--N5CPA, K5CEK, WB5SRN, K5JWM, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KE5SR, K5LJ, W5UFK. (9)

3/27/02--N5CPA, K5CEK, K5VRJ, AB5BA, K5JWM, WC5S, KK5UO, W5SQE, K5HFY. (9)

SCANNER JACK'S CORNER

**Frequencies for FT. BEND CO and HARRIS CO.
SKY WARN NETS.**

Amateur Radio

2m 145.490 FT. Bend County E.O.C.
2m 146.840 Houston E.O.C.

D.P.S.

154.680 Mobile to base - Houston
155.460 Base to mobile - Houston
159.210 Houston repeater
154.695 Mobile to base - Pierce
155.445 Base to mobile - Pierce
155.535 Richmond repeater - Pierce

National Weather Service

162.400 Houston 162.550 Galveston

TRUNKED ID'S

32944 Houston EOC and N.W.S. on City of Houston
trunked radio system

SCANNER JACK

Jack Roberts, KB5TMY

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

AMATEUR RADIO TESTING

**BVARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION
for April 9, 2002**

By John Moore, KK5NU

BVARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, April 9, 2002 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
John Koppenhaver, N0BNA
John Moore, KK5NU

Two examination elements were administered during the course of the evening to two applicants. One Technician

licensee upgraded to General and one General class licensee upgraded to Extra Class with the total number of elements passed being 2. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

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

Cy A. Schaadt - N5VQA - General
Michael B. Wheat - KD5LER - Extra

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

TIME IS GETTING SHORT!

The last day of June is just around the corner and for those who do not know what that means, a change in the Amateur Extra question pool will happen on that day. If you have been studying the questions to upgrade to Extra, you need to do it soon or you may have to start all over again! Contact John Moore, KK5NU and sign up today to take the upgrade test! There are 6 test sessions a month in the Houston area so by the time you get this newsletter there will be only about ten left. Check the BVARC web site for testing dates and locations.

CHECK OUT NEW FCC WEB SITE

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur/>

EPO **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

17778 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

ORDER FIELD DAY T-SHIRT NOW

Orders are being taken for 2002 Field Day t-shirts. The cost of the shirt is \$15.00 per shirt, which includes shipping. If you would like to order one, contact Cameron, K5CAM and place your order. He will be taking orders up to May 17th, when the order is sent to ARRL. Don't want until the last minute. The number of sizes are limited.

HOUSTON
AMATEUR RADIO
SUPPLY, INC.

GEORGE DiLETTA, KD0RW
PRESIDENT

EXIT 68 I-45 NORTH
181 CYPRESSWOOD DRIVE
SPRING, TX 77388

800 471 7373
281 355 7373
FAX 281 355 8007

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

The MS150 Bike Tour was a huge success. Over 10,000 people registered for the ride this year making it the biggest one ever! Over 80 amateurs were used from several areas including Houston, Katy, Bellville, Brenham, La Grange, Bastrop, and Austin. There were approximately 30 hospital transports of riders sustaining serious injuries including two air transports.

Without amateur radio, the event would be very difficult to coordinate. The service the amateur radio community gives to the events helps provide a smooth and safe event. Using amateur radio in public events helps promote the hobby and prepares us for times of emergencies. Take to the time over the next few months and work an event. There are a number of events coming up. Remember, hurricane season is just around the corner. So get your radio ready for the upcoming events.

Remember amateur radio can help others and working public service events keeps you prepared to do that.

May 18th SHINER BASH bike ride

Houston to Shiner Part of a three route bike ride. Starts at 7 a.m. and is finished by 3 p.m. Staffing only break-points and NET control in Shiner.

July 21st, 2002 Katy Flatlands Bike Ride - Katy

One day loop bike ride starting and finishing in Katy
5:30 am to 4:00 p.m.
30 operators needed

April 12th & 13th, 2003 MS150 BIKE TOUR

Several people had mentioned that they would have volunteered for the MS150 if they had known about it earlier. Well here are the dates! Sign up now. One hundred operators needed for both one day and two day positions starting at 4:30 a.m. Saturday to 11 p.m. Sunday. Food and sleeping accommodations provided.

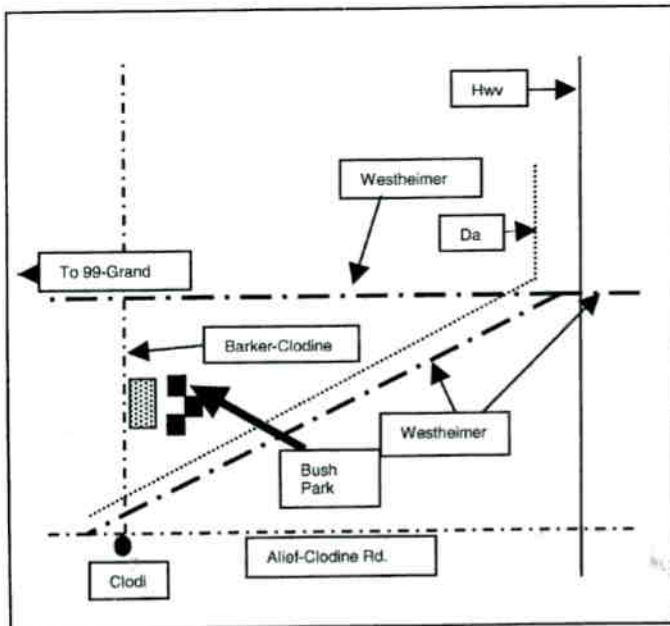
Houston Command post needing 20 operators for Friday noon to Sunday midnight operation. Operations include VHF, UHF, HF and APRS

If you would like to volunteer, call me at 713-771-4625.

Mike, N5VCX

2002 BVARC Field Day in Bush Park

Here is a map of the Field Day location for the 2002 BVARC Field Day. Mark your calendar and come on out and help make this one of the best Field days ever!



The 2002 BVARC Field day location will be at the #1 Pavilion in George Bush Park, on South Barker Cypress and Westheimer Parkway, off of State Highway 6. This new location will allow BVARC to present field day activities to the general public in a more open area as well as easier access. George Bush Park has many activities from soccer fields to remote control airplanes to a shooting center.

The pavilion that we will be using has 17 tables in it that could seat about 138 people. There are 3 barbecue pits outside the pavilion area that are available for us to use. There is water at the pavilion as well as three electrical outlets. They even supply us with a pair of volleyball poles (I don't think they will be used for volleyball. A bet a 20-meter dipole ends up there!).

So start getting your equipment ready for field day. The June BVARC general meeting will be a "get ready for field day" meeting, allowing everyone to participate in some field day activity even if they cannot make it out to the field day location. The Saturday before Field day, will be another "great ready for Field day" get together at the storage facility to pick-up materials, clean-out the area, put together shelves, and take inventory. Several people will be needed for this, so give me a call.

If you would like to help with Field Day, let me know at the general meeting or let me know by e-mail. Let me know any ideas you have to help improve field day and make it a better field day. We still need have a few more people to help with setting everything up on Saturday morning. After last's year high score, lets push and see what we really can do.

73's
NOJAA

NM ARES/RACES SUPPORT FIRE RESPONSE

Amateurs in New Mexico supported the activities of responding agencies in late March when four wildfires broke out at approximately the same time within a few miles of each other. One of the fires destroyed more than two dozen houses.

Working as a combined Lincoln County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) team, amateurs provided local communication support as well as an HF link between the fire incident command post and the state emergency operations center in the capital city of Santa Fe.

Amateurs also helped the Rio Hondo Chapter of the American Red Cross, which provided staff, equipment and food to feed fire-suppression teams as well as those staffing the incident command headquarters, other support staffers and those forced to take refuge in Red Cross shelters or seek first aid. More than 1000 people had to be evacuated.

Sohl said local repeater nets coordinated support personal, equipment disbursement and food distribution. In addition to the HF link with the state EOC, the ARES/RACES team networked the Red Cross shelter, first aid station, fire command post, three county-wide gateway net control stations and five mobile radio units via Amateur Radio. "The two fires required the Red Cross to set up two shelters and first aid stations to deal with two areas," Sohl said. "Two smaller fires were being suppressed at the same time."

The ARES/RACES team was able to integrate smoothly into the Red Cross response activities, Sohl observed. "Feeding this many people can be a logistical problem," he said. "This chapter has provided such support each year during fire season, so they know how to do the job correctly and have found that a radio network can improve efficiency at a time when it can make a major difference."

Sohl said this week that while the Alto and Hondo fires now are out, high winds plus a warmer-than-normal winter and a lack of snowfall have combined to create an extremely high fire danger situation. In all, more than three dozen amateurs--including ARRL New Mexico Section Manager Joe Knight, W5PDY--were involved in providing communication support during the fire emergency. -- ARRL Newsletter

HAMS HELP AT FLORIDA DERAILMENT

Ham radio helped provided coordination of emergency services following a train wreck near Crescent City Florida on April 18th. The accident happened at about 5:15 P-M Eastern time.

The accident killed four passengers and injured 159 other passengers. It happened after the engineer of an ill-fated Amtrak train saw damaged track and hit the emergency brakes.

Soon after the accident Bill Krueger, KF4EJD, was on the scene and at the wreck site relaying information to hams associated with ARES. Other hams with portable stations operational at the Putnam County EOC and Crescent City High School. A secondary shelter at Middleton-Burney Elementary was established to assist in moving passengers.

