



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

APRIL 2003

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 4

## HELP WANTED

**Semi comatose or better, warm bodies needed for the last full weekend in June, 2003; from noon local time on Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> until 3 PM, Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>..**

Duties will consist of operating amateur radio equipment on all bands under the knowledgeable and watchful supervision of a well trained control operator(s). Call signs will be furnished for the term of this assignment. Pleasant, varmint free outdoor working conditions with food, refreshments and limited shelter provided with access to air conditioned restroom facilities.

Ability to be available to report ready for duty to the Fort Bend Fire Training Facility in Richmond, TX.

Contact the BVARC Field Day Coordinator, Orin Snook, KB5F –email <osnook@ev1.net> or call (281) 431-9539.for details.

### Mike Davidson Gives Talk on 10-10 at March Meeting



## 2003 Club Officers:

President:  
Mike Hardwick, N5VCX  
n5vcx@worldnet.att.net

Vice President:  
Allen Brier, N5XZ  
abrier@hotmail.com

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:  
Cameron Mitchell  
k5cam@arrl.net

Recording Secretary:  
Joe Morgan, K5JWM  
k5jwm@att.net

One Year Board Member:  
Dave Scott, WD8RZA  
wd8rza@aol.com

Two 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,  
Sugar Land Community Center,  
224 Matlage Way

Board of Directors Meeting  
First Thursday of each month,  
Sugar Land Community Center,  
224 Matlage Way

Volunteer Examiner Program  
BVARC administers Amateur License  
Exams on the 2nd Tuesday of each  
month at the HCC Scarcella Technology  
Campus, 10141 Cash Rd. in Stafford.  
Contact John Moore, KK5NU

Eating Schedule  
Third Friday Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
Location announced in the calendar.

Saturday morning breakfasts -  
7:00 a.m. New York Coffee Shop  
9720 Hillcroft, Houston  
7:30 a.m. Viking Den  
2939 S. Main, Stafford

Rag Chew Net  
3910 KHz +/- 3KHz Wednesdays  
at 7:00 p.m.

Public Service Net  
Monday night on 145.47 (123 PL) at  
9:00 PM

## Rag Chew Net

By Joe Morgan, K5JWM

March 2003

**NOTE FREQUENCY CHANGE 3910 KHz**

**3910 KHz +/- 3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00 pm,**

Joe Morgan, K5JWM, Net Coordinator

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.

03/05/03 K5JWM, K5CEK, KE5SR, KB5F, K5LJ, KK5NU N5CPA, WC5S, AD5NN, K5HFF, KD5O, KC5JAR, AB5RJ Check-ins (13)

03/12/03 K5JWM, K5CEK, AD5NN, N5CPA, KE5SR, NM5K, K5LJ, WC5S, KD5EPZ, K5LBU, N5VXU, AB5RJ, K5VRJ, K5HFF, KB5F.check-ins (15)

03/19/03 K5JWM, K5CEK, N5CPA, AD5NN, KE5SR, NM5K, K5LJ, K5VRJ, AB5BA, WC5S, N5VXU, K5HFF, AD5KB check-ins (13)

03/26/03 K5JWM, KC5JAR, KB5F, K5CEK, KE5SR, N5CPA, K5VRJ, AB5BA, K5LJ, KK5NU, N5VXU, K5HFF check-ins (12)

## Amateur Radio Testing

### Results of the March 11<sup>th</sup> Testing Session

by John Moore, KK5NU

BVARC administered the ARRL-VEC Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

#### Members Of The VE Team:

- Carl Albrech, AA5JW
- Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
- John Moore, KK5NU
- George Ontiko, KM5VP

Five examination elements were administered during the course of the evening to five applicants. Five unlicensed candidates received their new Technician licenses; with the total number of elements passed being 5. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%. Congratulations to the following who passed an exam and/or upgraded:

- Catherine S. Janzer-KD5WDR- Technician
- Edward C. Kovelan, Jr. -KD5WDQ- Technician
- Stephen D. Lecollier -KD5WDP- Technician
- Peter M. Novak -KD5WDO- Technician
- Thomas J. Wright -KD5WDN- Technician

Many thanks to all the team members and assistants who volunteer their valuable time and effort each month. All of us at BVARC thank everyone at HCC Scarcella Technology Center for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors would like to thank Lockard & White Telecommunications Engineers for the printing of this newsletter.

## President's Corner

*By Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, President*

Field Day is coming up fast. Orin, KB5F, is still needing help for setup, operation and many other things for Field Day. This is amateur radio yearly premier event and everyone should make an effort to help out.

Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, is stepping down from his temporary position as corresponding secretary/treasurer. Cam stepped in for a few months when Ron Eisenbrey, AB5WG, who was elected to the position was hired by a San Antonio company and had to move. I want to thank Cam for his time and effort on stepping up to the need.

The new corresponding secretary/treasurer is now Mack Arp, W5EET. Mack has graciously stepped up (had his arm twisted) to the plate to help out with club duties. I want to thank him for taking on this position.

The MS150 wrap-up meeting was very interesting. Some of the interesting statistics are:

- Over 10,500 riders registered for the ride
- 9,220 rode the first day, 8,240 rode the second
- SAG vehicles picked up over 1900 riders over two days
- To do that they drove over 28,800 miles.
- The ride will raise nearly 7 million dollars to help fight MS

The ride is scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004. This will be the twentieth year of the ride and they are expecting it to be the biggest every.

If you have an article for the newsletter, get in contact with Marie.

Don't forget the next meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup>. This will be the planning meeting for field day.

73's

N5VCX

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## Public Service Net

*Doug Woodruff, KC5VYZ - Coordinator*

The 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:

3/25 - 31 - Doug, KC5VYZ  
3/31 - 22 - John, K5LKJ  
4/7 - 24 - Cam, K5CAM  
4/14 - 27 - Cam, K5CAM  
4/21 - 23 - Joe, K5JWM

## Help Needed Putting Up and Taking Down Tower

Bud Talbot, KB9WVG@arrl.net, needs help taking down, moving, and putting up a tower that has been donated to Elkins High School. Tentative dates are May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

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## Public Service Events

*By Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, President*

Here are some events for the rest of the year. Come out and help. Put your license and radio to a good use. If you like the hobby, this is one of the best ways to promote the hobby and help a worthy cause at the same time. Remember, one of the main reasons for amateur radio is to help the community. If you are interested in any of these events, give me a call and I will send you information on the event. Call me at 713-771-4625 or e-mail [n5vcx@arrl.net](mailto:n5vcx@arrl.net).

### Shiner Bash Bike Ride

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003 15 operators needed on each leg  
[n5vcx@arrl.net](mailto:n5vcx@arrl.net)  
Houston & San Antonio & Austin to Shiner

### MS150 Bike Ride Awards & Volunteer Party

June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2003 MS150 Volunteers  
[hou.hams@ms150.org](mailto:houston@ms150.org)

And for those who want to plan ahead:

### MS150 HOUSTON TO AUSTIN Bike Ride

April 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004

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## AMSAT-NA Issues First Call For Annual Symposium Papers

## AMSAT-NA Issues First Call For Annual Symposium Papers

AMSAT-NA has issued the first call for papers for its 2003 Space Symposium and Annual Meeting <[http://www.barc.ca/amsat\\_ca/](http://www.barc.ca/amsat_ca/)> October 17-19, 2003 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Papers may be presented by the author during the symposium or submitted for inclusion in the symposium Proceedings publication. Subject matter should be of general interest to Amateur Radio operators involved in satellite communications. Suggested topics include

- operating techniques, antenna design and construction, spacecraft design
- and construction, current mission status, proposed satellite missions, and
- telemetry acquisition and relay.

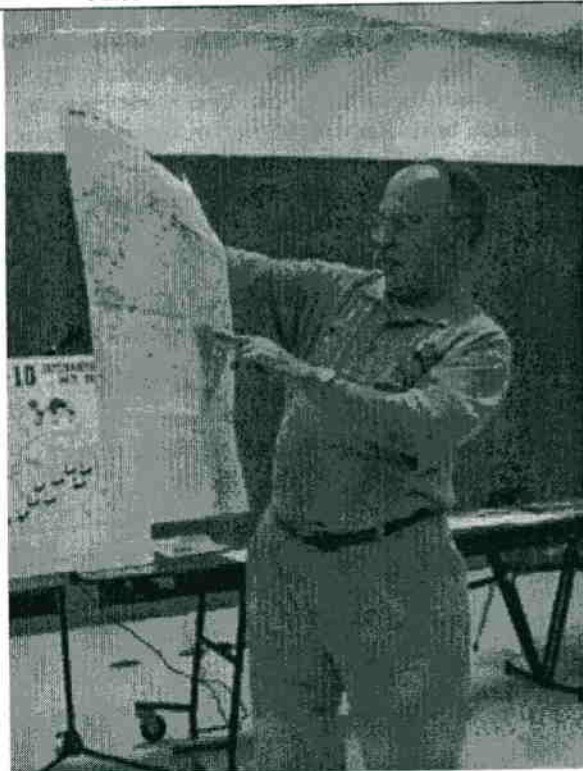
Authors should submit brief abstracts as soon as possible but in no case later than June 15. Publication-ready manuscripts are due August 15, preferably in electronic form and in MS-Word format. E-mail electronic submittals to Wayne Chandler, VE3WHC, [ve3whc@amsat.org](mailto:ve3whc@amsat.org).--AMSAT News Service

*Reprinted with permission from The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 16, April 18, 2003*

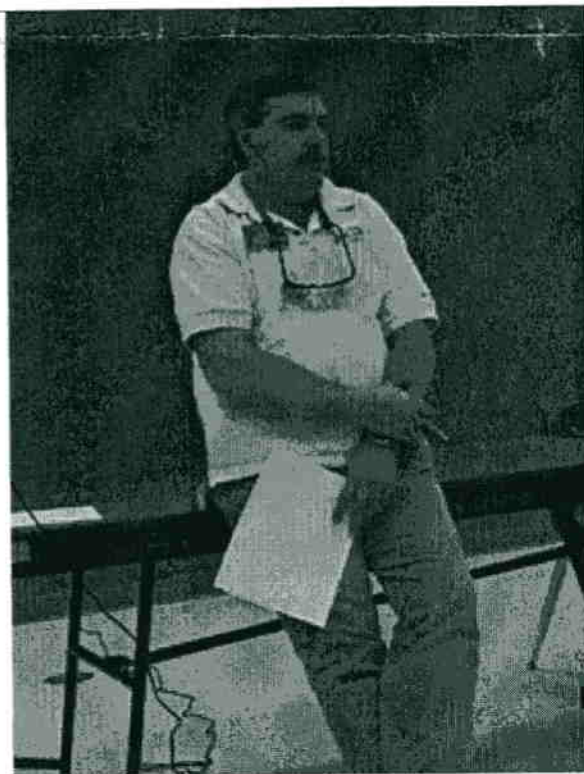


Candi draws raffle ticket winners

## Pictures from Membership Meeting, April 10th



Mike Davidson expounds on 10-10



Orin updates the club on his lawsuit. Court date is May 20th

## Enhanced SSB Bandwidths "Extremely Inconsiderate," FCC Says

The FCC has sent advisory notices to four enthusiasts of what's become known as "enhanced SSB"—the practice of engineering transmitted single-sideband audio to approach broadcast quality. Letters went out earlier this month to amateurs in Illinois, Florida and New Jersey who are aficionados of enhanced SSB, also known as "upper wideband" and "lower wideband."

"The Commission has received numerous complaints regarding the operation of your station," FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth wrote Paul Christensen, W9AC, John Anning, NU9N, Anthony Latin, W4NSG, and Sareno Salerno, W2ONV, on April 3. Hollingsworth said complaints to the FCC alleged that the bandwidths of the stations' enhanced SSB emissions were "wider than necessary and contrary to good engineering practice."

"Wideband overly-processed audio, especially when coupled with the high intermodulation levels of certain amplifiers, results in the use of bandwidths extremely inconsiderate of other operators," Hollingsworth said. Such transmissions may violate FCC rules and may be at odds with what Hollingsworth described as "the expectation that the Amateur Service be largely self-regulated."

Occupying more bandwidth than necessary in a heavily used amateur band, Hollingsworth wrote, not only could generate ill will among operators but lead to petitions

asking the FCC to establish bandwidth limits for amateur emissions. At present, the FCC imposes no specific bandwidth limits on various amateur modes.

Hollingsworth cited §97.307(a) of the Amateur Service rules that requires the signal of an amateur station not occupy "more bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted, in accordance with good amateur practice." Some amateurs have complained that enhanced SSB signals can take up 8 kHz or more of spectrum, cause splatter and unnecessarily interfere with other stations.

"The Amateur Service is not a substitute for the Broadcast Service," Hollingsworth said, "and the frequencies allocated to the Amateur Service were not allocated for a 'broadcast quality' audio emission or sound." Hollingsworth suggested the enhanced SSBers operate when the bands are less busy or on bands that are not heavily used.

The many complaints the FCC has been getting—20 or so per week—leads to the conclusion that the stations' enhanced SSB operation is having "a negative impact" on the Amateur Service, Hollingsworth said. He requested that the four amateurs "fully review the rules" and make sure their stations conform to them.

*Reprinted with permission from The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 16, April 18, 2003*

## DXCC To Accept Iraq Portable Operations Approved By Commanding Officers

ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, says the League will accept for DXCC credit YI/operations from Iraq by US or British military personnel provided the operator has written permission from his or her commanding officer.

"There is precedent for this," Mills said, citing an operation during the 1991 Gulf War. "These operators will need written authorization to operate from their commanding officers until an interim Iraqi civilian government is in place," Mills said. After that point, operators would need documented permission from Iraqi authorities.

The Daily DX <<http://www.dailydx.com>> has reported that several hams with the US military in Iraq have been showing up on the air in recent days. Mark Smith, NG5L, has been active from near Nasiriya as YI/NG5L on SSB, usually around 0500 UTC near 14.195 MHz. He's also been spotted in Europe and North America on other 20-meter frequencies and at other times of the day. Smith is in Iraq with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division.

Jim Dunkerton, YI/KT4CK, has been active on 15-meter SSB between 1430 and 1600 UTC. Dunkerton is believed to be with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne. Bob Furzer, 9K2ZZ/K4CY, reportedly has been on the air from Iraq as K4CY/p or K4CY/m. Other hams are known to be in Iraq but have not yet been reported on the air.

Still not known is whether Ed Giorgadze, 4L4FN—now in the Middle East after wrapping up his North Korean (P5) operation last fall—will be on a United Nations World Food Program assignment inside Iraq in the near future. That could depend in part on how big a role the UN plays in rebuilding Iraq.

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# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## 2003 Membership Application

Check One:

New Membership                       Renewal                       Roster Update ONLY

Regular membership dues are \$20.00 a year. Lifetime Memberships are \$160.00. Additional family members may join BVARC for only \$2.00 a year each with no additional copy of the newsletter.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: If this is a renewal, please indicate only changes in personal information. Thanks.)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Eve Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Main area of interests in amateur radio: \_\_\_\_\_

License Class:

ARRL Membership?

Novice                       General

Life

Technician                       Advanced

Annual

Tech+                       Extra

Not a member

Former Ham                       Not Yet a Ham

I agree to observe the By-Laws of Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club and rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Remittance:

Regular Membership \_\_\_\_\_ + Family Membership \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS\* at \$160 per Person \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB and write your call sign, if any, on your check. Send this form and your check or money order to:

**Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club**

**P.O. Box 1630**

**Missouri City TX 77459-1630**

## May 2003

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 BOD Meeting 7:30 PM	2	3 See *below
4	5 Net 9:00p.m. 145.470 MHz	6 AMSAT Net 8:00 p.m. 145.470 MHz	7 HF Net 7:00pm 3910 +/-3KHz	8 Club Meeting 7:30 pm	9	10 See *below
11	12 Net 9:00p.m. 145.470 MHz	13 VE Session 6:30 pm AMSAT Net 8:00 p.m.	14 HF Net 7:00pm 3910 +/-3KHz	15	16 See **below	17 See *below Arthritis Joint Walk Shiner Bash Bike Ride
18	19 Net 9:00p.m. 145.470 MHz	20 AMSAT Net 8:00 p.m. 145.470 MHz	21 HF Net 7:00pm 3910 +/-3KHz	22	23	24 See *below
25	26 Net 9:00p.m. 145.470 MHz	27 AMSAT Net 8:00 p.m. 145.470 MHz	28 HF Net 7:00pm 3910 +/-3KHz	29	30	31

\* Saturday morning breakfasts 7.00 a.m. New York Coffee Shop. 9720 Hillcroft, Houston. 7:30 a.m. Viking Den 2939 S. Main, Stafford.  
3rd Friday Dinner: MAY 16, 6:30 p.m. at The HICKORY BARN BARBECUE, 11534 Wilcrest, 1- 1/2 blocks N. of the S.W. FRWY.

## June 2003

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 Net 9:00p.m. 145.470 MHz	3 AMSAT Net 8:00 p.m. 145.470 MHz	4 HF Net 7:00pm 3910 +/-3KHz	5 BOD Meeting 7:30 PM	6	7
8	9 Net 9:00p.m. 145.470 MHz	10 VE Session 6:30 pm AMSAT Net 8:00 p.m. 145.470 MHz	11 HF Net 7:00pm 3910 +/-3KHz	12 Club Meeting 7:30 pm	13	14
15	16 Net 9:00p.m. 145.470 MHz	17 AMSAT Net 8:00 p.m. 145.470 MHz	18 HF Net 7:00pm 3910 +/-3KHz	19	20	21
22	23 Net 9:00p.m. 145.470 MHz	24 AMSAT Net 8:00 p.m. 145.470 MHz	25 HF Net 7:00pm 3910 +/-3KHz	26	27	28 Field Day Richmond Fire Training
29 Field Day Richmond Fire Training	30 Net 9:00p.m. 145.470 MHz					

3RD Friday Dinner June 20, 6:30p.m. (sharp) at PANDA GARDEN CHINESE RESTAURANT 1043 Eldridge Road at Jesse Pirtle Blvd. in Sugar Land.

\* Saturday morning breakfasts 7.00 a.m. New York Coffee Shop. 9720 Hillcroft, Houston. 7:30 a.m. Viking Den 2939 S. Main, Stafford.

