



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

JUNE 2003

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 6

## B-VARC Field Day 2003

By Orin Snook, KB5F

The annual B-VARC Field Day was held June 28-29, 2003 at the Richmond Fire Department Training Grounds in Richmond, Texas. Approx. 40 participants showed up and we operated in the 5A category.

Two stations were set up in Orin's trailer and three more stations set up under the pavilion. All power was provided by generator, as no commercial power was available at the location. Two water-cooled air conditioners procured by Allen that lowered the temp by a degree or two and kept what few mosquitoes at a minimum. A special thanks to volunteers who picked up and returned the coolers!



Lanny, KB5VTB, proves Morse code is not dead at Field Day 2003

his report might show up in the Herald Coaster, a paper mainly serving Richmond and Rosenberg. The Homeland Security issue was pointed out to both reporters and was mentioned on the FOX 26 News.

Food was provided by Ross, W5HFF and Frosty, K5LBU did a great job with cooking the hamburgers, hotdogs and Ross' wife made hot cherry cobbler that was super!

Four beams were installed, probably the most we have ever installed at a Field Day. The Richmond Fire Department Training Grounds

provided excellent antenna support structures, as well as protection, rest rooms and a never ending ice machine. Two loops were installed for the lower bands. Conditions were not a great as we would have liked, but we still managed to make contacts and have a lot of fun.

The biggest let down of the contest was discovering our 90 foot tri-band beam was actually a dual band WARC antenna. Didn't play too well on 20 meters...

A big thanks is due to the Richmond Fire Department and all (especially guests) who showed up and participated this year.

**Don't forget the Ice Cream Social, August 14<sup>th</sup>. Contact Ross, W5HFF, [w5hff@juno.com](mailto:w5hff@juno.com) if you would like to help or bring ice Cream.**

A rough breakdown of contacts:

• 80 CW:	15	75 SSB:	-
• 40 CW:	85	40 SSB:	-
• 20CW:	743	20SSB:	150
• 15 CW:	38 +6	15 SSB:	-
• 6 SSB:	16	PSK:	?
• Satellite	1	Other:	?

A reporter from FOX 26 news arrived about 11:30 AM on Saturday and did some interviews and a very nice report was made on the 9:00 PM news that night. We will attempt to copy the video and make it available on the B-VARC website. A freelance reporter showed up on Sunday and spent a lot of time taking pictures and interviewing participants. He said



## HamCom 2003

NEWINGTON, CT, Jun 27, 2003--An estimated 5000-plus Amateur Radio operators and visitors from across the US were on hand at the Arlington Convention Center in Arlington, Texas, the weekend of June 20-22 for the ARRL 2003 National Convention hosted by Ham-Com. Among those attending was Eagles guitarist and well-known radio amateur Joe Walsh, WB6ACU. The Eagles had a concert date at American Airlines Center in Dallas on Friday, June 20, but the next day, Walsh was a familiar sight--as well as the target of autograph seekers and shutterbugs--at Ham-Com.

"Everyone was very happy with the event," said Ham-Com Chairman Maury Guzick, W5BGP, who put the number of attendees at "just a tad over 5000," up 20 percent from last year. "The response to the programs and all the VIP's was great," he added. "It was the best Ham-Com since the 1994 National Convention."

ARRL signed a *Statement of Affiliation* with the Department of Homeland Security during the 2003 National Convention. See "Amateurs 'First of the First Responders,' Department of Homeland Security Official Says" for more information.

### ARRL Leadership Fields Members' Questions

Those attending the Sunday morning ARRL forum with League President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, several members of the ARRL Board of Directors and ARRL officers peppered the League leadership with questions on a variety of hot topics. Subjects included the new 5 MHz allocation, the ARRL's Capitol Hill initiatives and Logbook of the World (LoTW).

Responding to a question regarding the status of the 2003 Spectrum Protection Act (HR 718 and S 537), Haynie explained that the League, as a non-profit organization, faces limitations on how much lobbying it can do on behalf of a particular piece of legislation--and how much money it can expend--without jeopardizing its IRS 501(c)(3) status. "We can ask members to write, but not nonmembers," Haynie explained, as one example. In addition, ARRL cannot start a political action committee, as some members have suggested.

ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, pointed out that ARRL--through its presence in Washington--is in regular contact with members of Congress and their staffs.

Letters on legislation important to hams are important, Haynie said, since members of Congress want to know how an issue affects the voters back home. Before a visitor shows up, Haynie explained, congressional staffers typically prepare a file of

letters received from constituents on the issue at hand.

Regarding 5 MHz, Haynie said the ARRL has no immediate plans to put forth a band plan for use of the five discrete channels. That's in part because he expects the ARRL to petition the FCC in a year or so to replace the channels with a band. "There are concerns by the Department of Justice, the US Navy and the Coast Guard who use those frequencies for homeland security and drug interdiction," Haynie noted. "We must be cautious about any plan we propose."

Harrison said the 5-MHz allocation resulted from Amateur Radio's long history of good relations as a sharing partner on US government frequencies. "Amateur Radio's visibility is on the rise [in Washington] and will continue to rise," he said.

Central Director Dick Isely, W9GIG, defended the League's expenditure to develop Logbook of the World. One forum questioner had suggested that LoTW would hurt DXing by eliminating the exchange of hard-copy QSL cards to obtain award credit. Isely suggested that two communities would use LoTW: Contesters, who are not concerned with cards, only scores, and DXers, who seek credit for awards such as DXCC. Isely said LoTW does not preclude exchanging QSL cards. The program now is undergoing beta testing.

*Reprinted with permission from the ARRL website <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2003/06/27/1/?nc=>*

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## Upcoming Hamfests

Here are a few upcoming hamfests so mark them on your calendar.

**July 19 Slidell, Louisiana, Ozone ARC Slidell Convention Center 985-639-9690 [www.w5sla.org](http://www.w5sla.org)**

**August 1& 2 West Gulf Division Convention, Austin Joe Makeever, W5HS 512-345-0800 [w5hs@arrl.net](mailto:w5hs@arrl.net)**

**October 4 Belton Fall Ham Expo - Mike LeFan, WA5EQQ 254-773-3590 [www.tarc.org](http://www.tarc.org)**

**November 8 CLARC Hamfest Bay Area Community Center 5002 NASA ROAD 1 Seabrook <http://www.clarc.org/hamfest.htm>**

## 2003 Club Officers:

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

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

**Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:**  
Mack Arp, W5EET  
w5eet@yahoo.com

**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

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

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.

05/07/03 K5JWM, KE5SR, K5CEK, N5CPA, KB5F WA5VRB, KB9WVG, KA5JKI, WB5VYR, KD5QPX check-ins (10)

05/14/03 K5JWM, K5CEK, K5LBU, K5HFY, NZ5A N5CPA, KC5JAR, K5LJ, WB5SRN, KD5QPX, KA5JKI check-ins (11)

05/21/03 K5JWM, K5CEK, N5CPA, KB9WVG, K5VRJ AB5BA, K5LJ, WB5VYR, KB5F, ADBA. check-ins (10)

05/28/03 K5JWM, K5CEK, KE5SR, N5CPA, K5LBU K5VRJ, AB5BA, KB9WVG, K5HFY, WA5VRB, ADBA, KB5F, KD5QPX. Check-ins(13)

## Minutes of Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting

June 5, 2003

**Attendees:** President; Mike Hardwick-N5VCX, 2 -Year Director/Club Elmer Ross Lawler-W5HFF, Corresponding Secretary/ Treasurer, Mack C Arp-W5EET, Vice President Allen Brier N5XZ, 1-Year, Past President Kevin Foto KD5O, Recording Secretary, Joe W Morgan - K5JWM

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by President Mike Hardwick.

**Comments:** Treasurer Report Mack just took over and did have June Account Balance report and Total cash & Bank accounts reports to add to the Board. P.O.Box paid for and updated. Ross said he would take care of preparation for Ice cream social.

Mike is still making up new calendar. And thanks Mack for giving a some time to the club board of Directors. Kevin said he his ready for field day I'm sure a lot of us are.

**Emergency Business:** Orin handling field day for 2003 still need some volunteers. Mike will take care of media & news for field day.

**Old Business:** Mack was elected for Treasurer and voted for on the last club meeting and we made this annotate at June 5, 2003 Board of Director meeting. And all said I..Welcome Mack...Joe still has January minutes to be approved I will bring to next board meeting. Mike will bring by laws to next meeting

**New Business:** Joe will make new email roster for mass email. Talk to antique radio club about are swap meet and how to make it better for all of us. Field day coordinators are Orin KB5F and Allen N5XZ give them a call or email. Allen N5XZ Will be doing a presentation on HR-1478 Bill on how to right letters on respond to these bills and other bill that have any interest on Amateur Radio On June 12 2003.

**Announcements:** BVARC members it's time to start volunteering for Field day 2003.

**Membership count:** 123

**Adjourn:** 9:05

Submitted by Recording Secretary Joe W Morgan-K5JWM

The BVARC Board of Directors would like to thank Lockard & White Telecommunications Engineers for the production of the newsletter.



# HAMCOM 2003

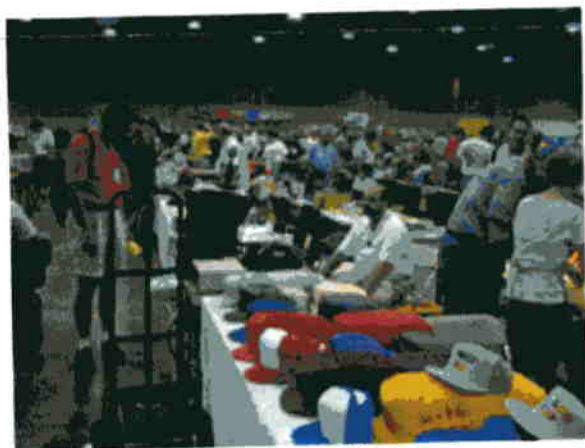
photos by Cameron Mitchell and A. M. Schaer



He may not have a call sign but he sure got lots of attention—Diego, a very friendly Macaw



Jim Haynie, W5JBP, ARRL president, speaking at HamCom 2003 Public Relations Forum



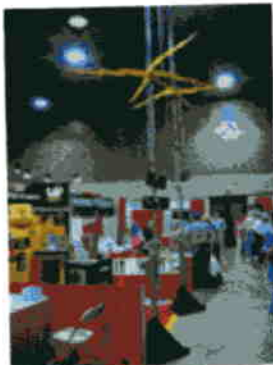
No shortage of hats



Icom booth



Flea Market Vendor Area in HamCom Parking Lot



Vendor area



Batteries and yet more batteries

# Field Day 2003

photos by Cameron Mitchell  
and A. M. Schaer



Peter working on last minute assembly



Radio - check; key - check; tuner - check; fan - check



One of the cooler operating areas!



Allen, N5XZ, racking up the points



Field Day coordinator, Orin Snook  
pauses long enough to get his picture  
taken.



Zak and Yaz



## President's Corner

by Mike Hardwick, N5VCX

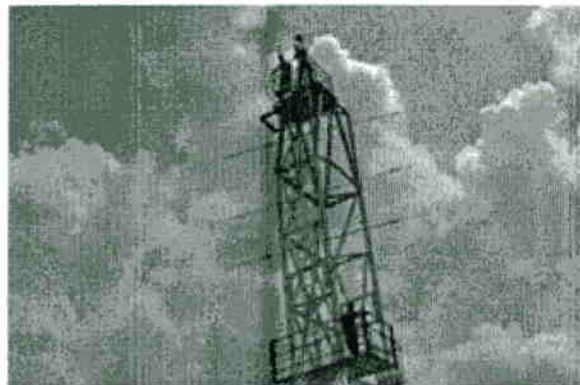
The month of June was very busy for amateur radio with the Arlington Hamcom and Field Day. Sometimes it is difficult to find time for all the functions that are going on and to take care of a family as well. As everyone has said before, you have to put your priorities in order. Try seeing your family only once a week. The rest is a waste of time. All that extra time will allow you to work more contests, especially at 3 a.m. If work is in the way, remember your wife can work two jobs, especially since you are only seeing her once a week. With a little work, you can make plenty of time for amateur radio.

Thanks again for everyone's hard work for this year's Field Day. Upcoming meeting programs September 11, QRP; November 13 - Chili Supper & elections; December 11 - home brew night; and the banquet in January.

### More Field Day Pictures



Raising an antenna or getting ready for bungee jumping?



Delicately raising the tri-bander!



Only the trailer has air-conditioning



Fox 26 News films BVARC's Field Day

02103

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I scream, you scream, we  
all scream for ice cream.  
BVARC Ice Cream Social,  
August 14th , 7:30 pm at  
the Sugar Land Community  
Center

