



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2004

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 8

Chili Supper – Club Elections

The upcoming November meeting (Thursday, November 11) is our annual Chili Supper. This special meeting promotes our club's members to come together for an evening social event and what better way to accomplish this than having a meal together. Secondly, we meet to introduce and elect the new board of directors for the following year.

A number of non-members attend this event and we encourage them to join BVARC and become active members of a great ham radio club. Please come and enjoy yourselves and, if you can, bring your spouse, children and friends. This is a good time for our families to meet others and get to know our ham radio friends.

All come and bring your favorite chili makings and/or fixin's like chips, crackers, cheese, hot spices to add, and soft drinks to wash it down (Sorry, no beer allowed). The club supplies the bowls, eating utensils, towels or napkins, power to keep it warm and TUMS, if required. If you would like to bring something please contact Ross – W5HFF on the air or 281 342-3340 and I will help coordinate the event. Allen (N5XZ) has requested "HOT" chili; something that will make him sweat!

We may once again vote on the best chili served and offer a prize for the one voted best.

Please come and bring a friend or family. You are guaranteed to have a great time sampling the chili and meeting the BVARC members and new board members for 2005.

73 from Ross – W5HFF



PHOTOS FROM THE OCTOBER MEETING



David Scott, WD8RZA, featured speaker
talking about Lightning



Kevin Foto, KD5O, making a hot dog.

JOB OPENING
BVARC PRESIDENT
Step up to the plate

President's Corner

The end of the year is just around the corner. Now is the time to think about where you would like BVARC, your club, to go. It has been a difficult year with newsletter problems, financial problems. Membership is now at the lowest that it has ever been with 97 members. We need your help to help the club. Remember this is your club and without your input and support the club will not make it.

We have several things that are going well for the club. We have active weekly VHF and HF nets. We are still having monthly testing sessions but there is even talk to drop that to once a quarter. There is still a strong board of directors that have worked hard to keep the club moving forward. We also have enough members to make Brazos Valley one of the most active clubs in the Houston area.

Don't forget to pick a candidate for the Order of the Key, Loop and Zepp, and Dr. Bill awards. These awards are presented to BVARC members that have done outstanding Work for the club in the areas of the awards. Full information on the awards are in this issue of the newsletter and on the BVARC web site.

Don't forget the events coming up - Home brew night - general meeting December 9th; BVARC annual banquet on January 14th; New Ham and New Member night – general meeting February 10th; and on March 5th the 4th annual BVARC Mix-N-Match Swap Meet.

Hope to see everyone at the Chili supper.

73

Mike, N5VCX

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

I wish to introduce myself as the new Editor for the BVARC Newsletter. I look forward to serving in this capacity.

It is my intent to work with the entire newsletter team to have a newsletter in each member's hands before the general membership meeting each month. Keep in mind that the newsletter will be uploaded to the BVARC website when they are mailed so look for it there the first week of the month and before you actually receive your hard copy. At this time, the newsletters will be printed in black and white however the on-line version will be in color.

This issue was composed immediately after my appointment as editor in order that you might receive it before the November meeting. Some articles normally included may have been left out or dramatically shortened, and some editing errors may be present. Over the next few months, though I do not have any specific plans to change the format, I will be open to suggestions for improvements and may implement several that I have already envisioned.

Please have your articles to me by the 25th of the month. Submit them in either Microsoft Word or TEXT files. Photos should be in JPG or GIF format. E-mail these to: k5izo@yahoo.com

Your constructive criticism is always welcome.

73 es tnx,
John K5IZO

Monday Night NET Updates

Don't forget the Monday Night Public Service Net starts at **8 pm**. 146.88 Mhz, PL 103.5 (backup – 145.45, PL –none). The order of check-ins start with mobile units first then fixed stations. If you have something for the net, make sure you let Net Control know about it when you check in. We are looking for Net Control Operators. Contact any officer of BVARC if you are interested.



NEW & SURPLUS ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS

ELECTRONIC PARTS OUTLET

3753 FONDREN ROAD
HOUSTON TX, 77063
713-784-0140
FAX#713-784-5740

SURPLUS INVENTORIES PURCHASED
www.epo-houston.com Southwest Houston
Between Richmond & Westpark SHP TEL 9301 LIPAN
HOUSTON, TX 77063

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BVARC Calendar - November 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Net 8:00 pm 146.880	2	3 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/- 3KHz	4 BOD Meeting 7:30 pm	5	6
7	8 Net 8:00 pm 146.880	9 VE Session 6:30 pm	10 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/- 3KHz	11 Chili Supper/Elections 7:30 pm	12	13
14	15 Net 8:00 pm 146.880	16	17 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/- 3KHz	18	19	20
21	22 Net 8:00 pm 146.880	23	24 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/- 3KHz	25	26	27
28	29 Net 8:00 pm 146.880	30	31 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/- 3KHz			

BVARC Calendar - December 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 HF Net 8:00 pm 3910 +/- 3KHz	2 BOD Meeting 7:30PM	3	4
5	6 Net 8:00 pm 146.880	7	8 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/- 3KHz	9 Club Meeting 7:30 pm @ SL Library	10	11
12	13 Net 8:00 pm 146.880	14 VE Session 6:30 pm	15 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/- 3KHz	16	17	18
19	20 Net 8:00 pm 146.880	21	22 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/- 3KHz	23	24	25 Christmas
26	27 Net 8:00 pm 146.880	28	29 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/- 3KHz	30	31	

**Remember: Saturday morning breakfasts - See details under Club Happenings.
Third Friday Dinner, 7:30p.m. (sharp). Check into one of the nets for the location.**

BVARC License Testing

BVARC sponsors and administers the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session on the second Tuesday of each month at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus in Stafford. Various members volunteer to be the VE examiners.

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.

HOUSE FOR SALE WITH TOWER

House For Sale (N5RP). Comes with 500 sq. ft. hamshack, Rohn 45G Tower (approx. 50 ft?), antennas, swimming pool, no antenna deed restrictions. Near Westheimer and Dairy Ashford.

HAR listing: <http://www.har.com/459325>

Upcoming Hamfests

Here is hamfest info for the next several months. Additional listings are at: <http://www.arrrl.org/hamfests.html#listing>

KCOMM, INC.

10815 Gulfdale
San Antonio, Texas 78216
<http://home.satx.rr.com/kcomm/>

Parking Lot Swapfest !
(210) 344-3311

A reminder to everyone in the San Antonio area.
We have renewed our monthly tailgater... Parking lot swapfest.
It's in our parking lot, the last Saturday each month.
Gulfdale is close to the San Antonio International Airport.
Hey!!! Free coffee & doughnuts.
C'mon out and set a spell.

Humble TEAC ARC Swapmeet

Third Saturday in March, June, September, December in Humble. Sponsored by TEAC - Hugh W5FM@arrrl.net 145.43(minus offset)

Brazos Valley ARC Mix-N-Match Swap Meet March 5, 2005

<http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc/> or n5vcx@arrrl.net
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Indoor tables and outdoor
Spaces available at Sugar Land Community Center
Needing volunteers to help with the swap meet!

Public Service Events

Several Events Still Needing Volunteers!

Here are several upcoming Public Service and other amateur radio related events needing amateur radio operators for communications or participation. Operators of web sites and remail list, post this information on your web site. Please show your support for amateur radio by coming out to help or by attending the events.

Novemberfest Bike Ride

9:00 a.m. Saturday - November 13, 2004

<http://www.novemberfestmetricentury.org/>

Bicycle ride starting and finishing in San Felipe, Texas. 20 operators needed.
Contact Robert Temple if interested in working the event.
rtemple@csc.com

BP MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Tour 2005

7:00 a.m. April 16 & 17, 2005

Premier 2 day cycling event needing 120 amateur radio operators to provide communications for support. Communications will be on HF, VHF, UHF, and APRS. Bike Ride has multiple courses between Houston and Austin and amateur radio covers all areas, medical, break points/water stops, start and finish areas, SAGS, supply trucks, and event staff.

If you are interested in helping, please give Mike Hardwick, N5VCX a call at 713-771-4625.

Thanks, Mike,
n5vcx@arrrl.net

BVARC Meeting Dates for 2004

Board Meetings:

November 4, SCC.
December 2, TBD

SL Lib – Eldridge Road Library

General Membership Meetings:

November 11, SLCC
December 9, SL Lib.

SLCC – Sugar Land Comm. Ctr.

Silent Key

DANIEL MATTIS KC5VAT

The oldest son of Allen (N5AFV) and Anita Mattis passed away in late October. Daniel was to have graduated from the University of Houston in December. The officers, board of directors and all the members of BVARC offer their prayers and extend their sympathies to the Mattis family.

Book Review -- The ARRL Antenna Compendium Volume 7.

Submitted by Rick Hiller, W5RH

Note: This volume is compiled for the HF operator. VHF'ers and Satellite ops heed this warning.

As the solar cycle slowly drifts downward toward the 'trough', the modus operandi for active hams is to move lower in the frequency range and see what's happening on 10 MHz and below. AC Volume 7 addresses this frequency shift with a plethora of articles about lower band antennas. The most interesting one is "An Electrically Small Umbrella Antenna for 160 Meters" by John Belrose. It is unique in that it utilizes part of the tower as a section of transmission line for an inductive stub. Other low band oriented treats highlight the Folded Unipole, a look at the Inverted L and 'T' antennas and a Half -square Yagi. Of course, other antennas are highlighted within the Quad, Longwire, Vertical and Mobile antenna families. Antenna deployment ideas also are included with a unique vertical tilt over device, by a Houston based ham, and tree mounting ideas for hanging wire antennas. On the operational and measurement side, there are articles about WWV Spots, a look at the Auroral Zone, Computer modeling, Short Dipole Design, Antenna Data Acquisition and a process for measuring field strength. All in all a well rounded look at the area of HF antennas

198 pages of content with the associated software and data located on the ARRL web site...all for \$24.95 plus tax.

Worth it? My standpoint is that I am not only looking for practical building ideas but I am also looking for articles that take antenna theory usage into new areas. From this standpoint, this volume is worth the purchase price, as I have already changed the design of my "to be" 160 meter transmitting antenna. Otherwise, it is 50 articles at 50 cents each, figuring it based on the download music model (99 cents each song). Some articles are well worth the 50 cents, others I will not use at all, but on average it is a fair price to ask for this amount of information. The ARRL Antenna Compendiums are all worth picking up at the next Ham-fest or locally at EPO or HARS or special order through Wes or Charlie respectively at no extra charge.

ANNUAL BANQUET

Mark your calendars for the annual banquet which always takes place just after the holiday season. This year it will once again be at the Saltgrass Steak House on the SW Freeway, on Friday, January 14, 2005. 7PM for cash bar; 8PM for meals (order from menu).

0203

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BVARC AWARDS

It is that time of year again for the club membership to chose who has performed outstanding in several area for the club. Listed below are the information on the awards that the club presents during the January Awards Banquet.

The Order of the Key

The Order of the Key is the highest honor that can be conferred by BVARC. With this award, we recognize the BVARC member who has made outstanding contributions to the progress of the club. These contributions might take the form of a long-term, consistent commitment to service, or might represent an extremely high level of service for a shorter time. In any case, the award represents exceptional service and commitment to the goals of BVARC.

Any BVARC member may make nominations for the Order of the Key. The nominations must be made in writing, and should include a description of the nominee's contributions to the club. Nominations must be submitted to any BVARC officer or Board member not later than the December regular Membership meeting. The President will then poll the Board of Directors secretly to allow them to vote on the nominations. Although any member may enter a nomination, only the Board of Directors does voting. If in any year, no candidate receives unanimous approval of the Board, then no award shall be made that year. The vote by the Board of Directors must be unanimous for the award to be conferred.

The Dr. Bill Award

In 1988 BVARC initiated the presentation of the Dr. Bill Award, which was originated by Keith and Eva Hugel (KA5F and KA5CYZ) in honor of Dr. Bill Ossenfort, NG5C, now a silent key, which was very active in the Volunteer Examiner Program in the Houston area.

This award may be presented each year to the BVARC member recognized as the outstanding participant in the BVARC Volunteer Examiner Program. There shall be no more than one award presented each year, unless in any given year the Board of Directors elects unanimously to award more than one award. It is not mandatory that an award be made each year, if in the board's majority opinion, no nominee is selected. Under normal circumstances, other than the condition stated in the first sentence of this paragraph, the yearly recipient of the award, should there be one, must receive majority approval of the BVARC Board of Directors.

The Loop and Zepp Award

In 1989, the Loop and Zepp Award was originated to recognize BVARC Members for their efforts to promote operation on the high frequency (HF) bands. These Efforts may take the form of dedicated participation in any form or forms of HF activities, the promotion of HF activities or the assistance in furthering HF activities.

There shall be no more than one award presented each year, unless in any one given year the Board of Directors elects unanimously to award more than one award. It is not mandatory that the award be made each year, if in the board's majority opinion, no nominee is selected. Under normal circumstances, other than the condition stated in the first sentence of this paragraph, the yearly recipient of the award, should there be one, must receive majority approval of the BVARC Board of Directors.

Any member of the club may make nominations for all Awards. Nominations must be made in writing, and must be submitted to any BVARC officer or Board member not later than the December regular membership meeting. If no nominations are received by the December meeting, then no awards will be presented at the January banquet.

See the BVARC website for a list of past awardees.

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, President

Houston Amateur Radio Supply
181 Cypresswood Drive
Houston, Texas 77388 - 6038
281-355-7373 800-471-7373 281-355-8007/Fax
Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. *George Di Letto KD0RW*
Repair most brands of radios, amps, and other gear
Factory Authorized Repair center for ICOM and Yaesu
Trade-ins Welcome, Consignment Service,
30 day warranty on used equipment 06/04

BVARC LISTSERVE INFORMATION

BVARC has access to a listserv which will allow members to converse with other members via email.

A member can compose an email and direct it to the listserv which will, in turn, send a copy of the email text to all subscribers registered with the server. Announcements and information related to the club and other relevant material related to amateur radio may be sent.

The BVARC Board of Directors would like to see as many of the club members as possible be registered on the listserv. If you wish to be a member of the listserv, YOU MUST REGISTER WITH THE SERVER YOURSELF. The form for registering is located on the web at

<http://www.clarc.org/mailman/listinfo/bvarc>

Clear Lake ARC has been kind enough to provide this facility for us. Bruce Paige, KK5DO, is the arranger.

(Note: Occasional announcements from me concerning meetings and events is not from the listserv and the fact that you receive the announcement does not indicate that you are on the listserv.)

Cameron k5cam

THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00PM 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 B-Varc 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.

Sept 2004 check-ins

09/01/04__N5CPA,K5CEK,K5HFY,WB5VYR,N5VXU, K5VRJ,AB5BA,WA5VRB.check-ins(8)

09/08/04__ K5JWM,K5CEK,N5CPA,K5LJ.W5UHZ,WA5VRB, K5VRJ,AB5BA,K5IZO,KG5RQ,K5HFY.check_ins(11).

09/15/04__ K5JWM,K5CEK,N5CPA,K5LJ,W5HFF,W5UHZ, AB5BA,K5VRJ,K5HFY,NM5K,KG5RQ.check-ins(11)

09/22/04__K5JWM,K5CEK,W5HFF,N5CPA,WA5VRB, W5UHZ,K5VRJ,AB5BA,WB5VYR.check-ins(9)

2004 Club Officers:

President:

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
n5vcx@worldnet.att.net

Vice President:

Allen Brier, N5XZ
n5xz@arrl.net

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:

Mack Arp, W5EET
w5eet@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary:

Joe Morgan, K5JWM
k5jwm@att.net

One Year Board Member:

Ross Lawler, W5HFF
w5hff@yahoo.com

Two Year Board Member:

Sid Sherwood, N5ZKD
n5zkd@arrl.net

Past President:

Kevin Foto, KD5O
foto@texas.net

Club Happenings:

General Meeting

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

Board of Directors Meeting

First Thursday of each month,
Sugar Land Community Center,
226 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 7:30 p.m.
Location announced in the calendar.

Saturday morning breakfasts –

7:30 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 146.88 (103.5 PL)
at 8:00 PM

Minutes of Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting

Oct 5,2004

Attendees: President Mike Hardwick-N5VCX
Vice President Allen-N5XZ
Treasurer/Corresponding Secretary Mack Arp-W5EET
Recording Secretary, Joe W Morgan - K5JWM
1-Year at Large Director/Club Elmer Ross Lawler-W5HFF
2-Year at Large Director Sid Sherwood-N5ZXD
Past President Kevin Foto-KD5O
Club Senior Advisor Camron-K5CAM
John Chauvin-K5IZO
Paul Rubin-N8NOV

Meeting called to order at 7:13 PM by President Mike Hardwick

Comments: Ads need to be in newsletter.

Emergency Business: Bank Account: Mack Arp has updated the bank account and we now have a new bank account at a different bank. The Board discussed on the period for the CD; it will be for 2 years. Joe proposed a motion for a 2 year CD period. Sid seconded the motion and the board voted and the motion passed.

Old Business: Cameron has the Web site updated with Oct newsletter and E-mailings for functions. Cameron has sent e-mails out and people seem to be receiving them. The filing for 501-C3 will take 120 days to hear back. Next BOD bring club records so we can have them put in storage. Program for the rest of the year:

October lighting by Dave WA8RZA
November Chili supper and Elections
December home brew night

New Business: Elections for November

President

At large position 2 year

Treasurer/Corresponding Secretary

Allen proposed a motion to donate \$150.00 to ARRL. Joe seconded the motion. Board voted and the motion passed.

Newsletter production was talked about and we discussed a 15 point production. Allen proposed a motion for the newsletter (15 point production of the BVARC newsletter).

Ross seconded the motion the board voted and the motion passed.

Announcements: Banquet will be at the Saltgrass Steak House. Jan,14 2004, 7PM for drinks & 8PM for meal.

Membership count:102

Adjourn: 9:36

Submitted by Recording Secretary Joe W Morgan-K5JWM



Monthly Publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.
Serving Amateur Radio for Southwest Houston and Fort Bend County
Club Call sign - KC5OIG, W5DPA
BVARC Website: <http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc>
Editor: John Chauvin, K5IZO, k5izo@yahoo.com
Production Team: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, k5cam@arrl.net
Claude Sessions, K5HFY, k5hfy@arrl.net

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 amateur radio club along with an impressive record of public service. The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) has recognized the club's commitment of service with the coveted status of Special Services Club. We are proud of our members who represent the 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. Club meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Sugar Land Community Center, 226 Matlege Way. Talk-in assistance for the club meeting is available on the 146.880 repeater (minus offset, 103.5 tone). General membership dues are \$20.00 per year, with student dues \$10.00 per year, addition family members \$2.00 per member per year and life membership \$160.00.

BVARC also administers amateur radio license exams on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Houston Community College's Scarcella campus in Stafford. A Public Service Net is held each Monday at 8:00 p.m. on the 146.880 (minus offset with a 103.5 tone) repeater and a rag chew net is held each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. on 3910 KHz +/- 3 KHz.

To obtain information about joining **BVARC** or its activities contact the club's "Elmer", Ross Lawler, W5HFF at 281-342-3340 or w5hff@yahoo.com or the BVARC website at www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc.

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 8

November 2004

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

**Monday Night Public Service Net at 8:00 P.M.
Wednesday Night Rag Chew New at 7:00 P.M.
Next General Meeting on November 11 at 7:30 P.M.**

*If your mailing label is
highlighted in color its time
to renew your membership!*