



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

JUNE 2005

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 6

FIELD DAY - JUNE 25 & 26

Final plans are being made for Field Day. A short presentation on it will be given at the June General Membership Meeting.

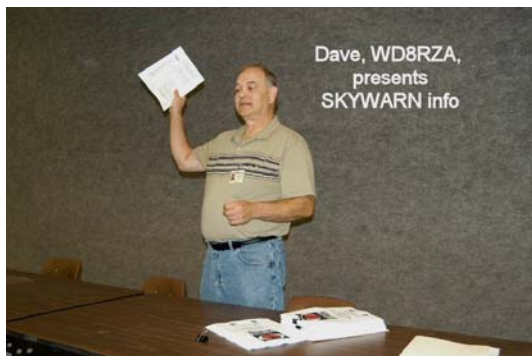
Plans include:

- VHF Stations for Technician Use.
- Control operators available for those wanting to operate who either don't have a license or want to operate "above" their current operating privileges.
- Scheduling and unassigned times so all who want to operate may.
- Dedicated stations for CW, SSB and PSK-31.
- Equipment provided for each station.
- Food – snacks throughout the 2 days and a full meal at 6PM Saturday afternoon with family attendance encouraged. **BRING A FRIEND!**
- Primary objective – fun for all!

See related article elsewhere in this newsletter

See the BVARC website for up to date current information on FIELD DAY 2005!!!!

MAY MEETING PICS



JUNE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

June meeting: 7:30PM, June 9 at the Sugar Land Community Center, 226 Matlage Way. The featured presentation will be 1) a representative from Motorola talking about trunking and 2) a preview of Field Day.

President's Corner

Summer is just around the corner and that means two things – Arlington Hamcom and Field day.

Hamcom is this coming weekend and it is one of the biggest amateur radio functions in the state. We should try and attend and support Hamcom which supports amateur radio. Hope to see you there.

Field Day is just around the corner. John, K5IZO and Ross, W5HFF and Allen, N5XZ are hard at work on the preparations it. As it has been over the last couple of years, Field day will be held at the Fort Bend County Fire Training field in Richmond. There is more information on Field day elsewhere in the newsletter.

Don't forget the other club activities coming up: the ice cream social in August, the elections and Chili supper in November and home brew (no not home-made beer) night in December. Hopefully around September or October we will bring back BVARC's weekend camping trip. Keep up with the newsletter on any details.

The club is fairly busy throughout the year but to keep everyone's interest high, more activities need to be planned. I would like all the members to send me an e-mail and let me know what you are interested in. If we get a large enough response, hopefully the club will be able to do it.

For some of you that may not know, we have acquired the community center for the 2006 Mix-n-Match Swap meet. After many calls to the Sugar Land Masonic Lodge, they have agreed to swap with us for our March 4 date in 2006. They did ask us to help them out on one thing – to come by the weekend they have the community center and have some really good BBQ. I hope we as a club can have a good showing at their fund raiser. If anyone would like any more information on this, please drop me an e-mail.

We have moved the club's store room to a new location. At this time, the location is in Sid's, N5ZKD horse trailer. Hopefully we have a new place this week and it will be announced at the general meeting on the 9th.

Speaking of the general meeting, don't forget our special speaker for that night. David Taylor, W5DST of Motorola will be there to present a program on trunking radio systems. David is a Senior Engineer in Motorola's product development and he offered to come out to present the program (David has also worked communications on the MS150 for the last 4 years with me and he has been a great asset for communications support).

And for everyone that is not aware about the MS150 this year, it was huge with nearly 12,000 riders and over 3,000 volunteers. Over 100 amateur operators supported the communications on the event over the two days. I really want to thank everyone for their hard work. For those volunteers on the event the awards and volunteer appreciation celebration will be held at Toyota Center on Thursday, June 23 between 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The Austin celebration will be on Monday, June 27, at the University of Texas Alumni Building. Doors open at 5 p.m. The awards program will take place from 6 to 8 p.m.

Last but not least is the club's membership level. We are still hovering around 100 members which is good since we are no longer dropping in numbers. The club needs to be around 200 members which will allow us to have the income for Field Day, the Awards banquet and other club functions. If anyone would like to help on this year's membership drive, please contact the board of directors and let them know.

Hope to see everyone at the general meeting on the 9th.

73, N5VCX

REMEMBER OUR NEW BVARC CLUB CALL - KK5W

Our club call is KK5W. This is the call that we will use for Field Day.

UPCOMING FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

June - a) 15-20 minute Field Day prep, b) 25-30 minutes on the Motorola trunking system presented by a Motorola engineer.
July – Tentatively AMSAT.
August - the ice cream social
September - maritime mobile licensing (tentative).
October – undetermined – possibly something about HF - operating, equipment building, QRP, antenna building, or anything associated with HF.
November - the chili supper and elections.
December - home brew night.

BVARC EATING SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFASTS:

NEW YORK COFFEE SHOP, 7:30a.m., 9720 Hillcroft, Houston.
VIKING DEN, 7:30a.m., 2939 S. Main (US90A), Stafford.

THIRD FRIDAY DINNERS:

June 17, 7:30p.m., TIO PEPE'S SPANISH RESTAURANT, 5213 Cedar in Bellaire
July 15, 7:30p.m., THE HICKORY BARN BARBECUE, 11534 Wilcrest in Houston.



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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. Here are recent check-ins with control-ops:

1/10 - 19 - Mike, n5vcx	2/28 - 27 - Doug, kc5vyz	4/18 - 22 - Joe, k5jwm
1/17 - 19 - Joe, k5jwm	3/7 - 20 - Cam, k5cam	4/25 - 18 - Doug, kc5vyz
1/24 - 23 - Cam, k5cam	3/14 - 28 - Larry, k5lj	5/2 - 18 - Cam, k5cam
1/31 - 21 - Sid, n5zkd	3/21 - 25 - Joe, k5jwm	5/9 - 18 - Mike, n5vcx
2/7 - 27 - Cam, k5cam	3/28 - 21 - Doug, kc5vyz	5/16 - 8 - Joe, k5jwm
2/14 - 22 - Mike, n5vcx	4/4 - 18 - Cam, k5cam	5/23 - 23 - Doug, kc5vyz
2/21 - 23 - Joe, k5jwm	4/11 - 22 - Larry, k5lj	

Upcoming Hamfests

Hamfest info for the next few months. More information at: <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html#listing>

ARLINGTON HAMCOM

June 3,4,5 Arlington, TX
ARRL West Gulf Division Convention
Friday: Noon – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday: 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

VE Testing; Speakers; Programs.
General Admission:
Adult - \$9, Family Member - \$4, Student – Free.
For more info: <http://www.hamcom.org>

TEXAS CITY HAMFEST

July 9, 8AM – 2PM.
Doyle Convention Center, 2010 5th Ave, N., Texas City, TX
Talk In - 147.140 Tone 167.9

Vendors, exhibits, food, contests, swap tables, prizes.
Admission - \$5 at the door.

More info at: <http://www.tidelands.org/hamfest2005pre.jpg>

BVARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION

RESULTS OF THE May 10th B-VARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION

by: John Moore, KK5NU

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, May 10, 2005 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Larry Jacobson, K5LJ * John Moore, KK5NU * George Ontko, KM5VP

Twelve examination elements were administered during the evening to eleven applicants. Seven new Technician licenses were earned, and there was one Element 3 passed. A total of eight elements were passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 66.67%.

Congratulations to all the following who attained a license and/or passed an exam:

Gus Alvarado, II	- {KE5EVM} - Technician
Michael Barnes	- {KE5EVS} - Technician
Jamie Z. Cervantes	- {KE5EVR} - Technician
Leonard L. Ferguson	- {KE5EVQ} - Technician
Daryl S. Goerner	- {KE5EVP} - Technician
Clinton R. Presswood	- {KE5EVO} - Technician
William D. Stone	- KE5CUT - Element 3
Joshua K. Webster	- {KE5EVN} - Technician

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

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

..... 73

THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

By Joe Morgan, K5JWM

April 2005 check-ins

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.

04/06/05 - K5JWM, K5CEK, KE5SR, K5LJ, W5HFF, N5CPA, W5UHZ, KE5CDE, NM5K, WA5VRB, K5HFX, KA5MEI, W5UHF .check-ins(13)

04/13/05 - K5JWM, K5CEK, N5CPA, KE5CDE, K5VRJ, AB5BA, K5HFX, KE5CFF, WA5VRB, W5UHZ, KA5MEI, W5RH, KG5RQ. check-ins(13)

04/20/05 - N5CPA, K5CEK, NM5K, K5LJ, W5HFF, WA5VRB, W5UHZ, KB5SIT, N5VXU, W5RH, KA5JKI, K5VRJ. check-ins(12)

04/27/05 - K5JWM, KB5SIT, K5HFX, K5CEK, KE5SR, KA5MEI, N5CPA, KE5CDE, K5LJ, W5UHZ, W5RH, WA5VRB, WB5SRN, WB5VYR. check-ins(14)

The Purpose of Field Day and Amateur Radio

A Personal Opinion

This is some information that was printed a few years ago about Field Day. It describes why we have the radio privileges we do and what we should do to support those privileges. It may be great to just talk on the radio during drive time but amateur radio is here to support the community in several ways such as ARES, Emergency communications, Disaster communications, RACES, Public Welfare communications. I know that the lion's share of amateur radio operators don't care about this for one reason or another. For me, it was directly instrumental in getting a direction in my career. I know emergency communications are important but amateur radio was born as "amateur broadcasting" of music and programs, not emergency communication. It took several years before it was realized as one of it's assets and several more years before it was implemented into the regulations.

This are the non-technical reasons for amateur radio. The government, both US and internationally, made the decision in 1934 to allow individuals to operate radio transmitting equipment as a hobby during none emergency times for the availability of having communications for emergencies. For the folks that have never seen any part of the concerning amateur radio, here is the first part explaining the basis and purpose of amateur radio.

Code of Federal Regulations

Title 47, Volume 5

TITLE 47--TELECOMMUNICATION

PART 97--AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE--Table of Contents

Subpart A--General Provisions

Sec. 97.1 Basis and purpose.

The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

(a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

(b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.

(c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.

(d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.

(e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

As you can see, the first item for the purpose of amateur radio is on emergency communications. Even with cell-phones, NEXTEL, and the Internet, amateur radio can still provide a very reliable source for emergency communications. With the products today, amateur stations can be set up anywhere and provide a never-ending stream of communications for disaster and emergency communications. There is only problem, the amateur operator.

If we are to be a value to the public, we have to be prepared. Whether prepared through equipment or through operational capabilities, we need to be prepared. Do you know how to operate your radio on more than one or two channels? Can you change your PL tone without getting the manual out? Do you know where other repeaters are in your area? Can you take your equipment and setup operations in different locations? My feeling is if you cannot do any of the things that I have listed, you cannot successfully help during an emergency situation.

Field day is just a few weeks away. This is the time that we should work on being prepared for emergencies and able to help out in a moments notice. If you want amateur radio to survive, help out on field day. Come to the general meeting on the 9th and let John or Ross or Allen know that you are ready to put some effort into the hobby. Remember, only with everyone's help and working together will the hobby remain.

Mike
N5VCX

Houston BPL Test System in Brief

On May 17, 2005, CenterPoint Energy (www.centerpointenergy.com) held a meeting at their Bellaire facility concerning their Houston BPL test project. The meeting was well attended by over 30 representatives of Houston area amateur radio clubs with everyone seeming relatively knowledgeable on the subject. The meeting opened with comments by Don Cortez, CenterPoint Energy (CNP) vice-president for the BPL project. Cortez stated that customers in Houston wanted more instant information as well as better electrical service. He said that the BPL technology will be able to provide the method to allow an intelligent electrical grid, such as instantly knowing the location of power outages, faulty equipment, etc. as well providing high speed information can be detected and passed over the grid. Cortez did not at first mention of supplying internet services to those people who are out-of-reach of other methods of internet service being a justification for BPL. Cortez also made great emphasis on the fact that CenterPoint is not hiding anything in this BPL test program deployment.

Greg Angst, CNP Consulting Engineer, next discussed the two types of BPL equipment that CenterPoint would be using: classic style which is made by Mitsubishi (www.meppi.com) and the hybrid style made by Amperion (www.amperion.com). Angst explained that the classic style has the broadband carrier on the medium voltage lines as well as the low power lines into the consumers home while the hybrid style has the broadband carrier on the medium voltage lines only (the consumer is then connected by a standard WiFi 802.11b wireless system to the BPL system). Angst went through very quickly a series of slides how BPL is inserted, repeated, and distributed to the consumer. CNP is testing both types of equipment so they can determine which is the best bet for the future because of its stability and commitment. Angst feels that Mitsubishi with their 1000 engineers on the BPL project is the best for long term service and support. The study, Angst said, consists of 200 homes near the 4300 block of Richmond. The system's 35 repeaters (Angst called them signal regenerators) are currently being tuned and the residents have all been advised of the test. The test should start the first full week of June and last for approximately 90 days ending the last week of August. Later, it was noted that there is one ham in the test area, 2 in close proximity and 27 hams in the zip code of the test area. Angst said that there will be a list of services will be available including internet, telephone, direct video, security, and so on.

The program continued with Chris Britton of IDACOMM, the engineers for the test. One of the main purposes of the test is to check RFI. The system has the ability to avoid interference with ham radio. The plan is to start with a base and then add elements, testing for interference at each level. They will maintain compliance with FCC Part 15 in avoiding harmful interference. A slide showed the mitigation process, whose steps seemed appropriate. In the event that a problem cannot be resolved, they will have to reduce power or possibly shut down a node. Avoidance methods include the use of multiple frequencies and notching/masking. A slide showed the band plan and the results of notching. Possible to notch down 75 db. Their frequencies were mainly provided by NTIA, FEMA and ARRL. (They did not seem aware of WWV.)

A lengthy question and answer session followed hampered by lack of a PA system. There seemed very little hostility toward the presenters. Certainly some favorable feelings were the result of the fact that CNP took the trouble to have the meeting and seemed open about the test. IBM is the project manager for the test, establishing quality standards and ensuring compliance. The project is only for residential services and not commercial – but commercial was not ruled out. When a particular point is notched, this may not extend outside the immediate area – not sure of the implication for mobile operation. They seemed willing to meet with groups and even have restricted tours of the facility.

Looks like BPL is here. Here is the URL to the application:

https://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/oet/cf/els/reports/442_Print.cfm?mode=initial&application_seq=28994&license_seq=29247

Houston Amateur Radio Supply
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2005 Club Officers:

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

Vice President:
Allen Brier, N5XZ
n5xz@arrl.net

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:
Ross Lawler, W5HFF
w5hff@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary:
Joe Morgan, K5JWM
K5jwm@earthlink.net

One Year Board Member:
Robert Polanski, KD5YVQ
polinski@swbell.net

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

May 05, 2005

President Mike Hardwick called the monthly Board of Directors for The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:30 pm on May 5, 2005 at the Sugar Land Community Center in Sugar Land, Texas.

Attendees:

President - Mike Hardwick-N5VCX
Vice President - Allen Brier-N5XZ
Treasurer/Corresponding Secretary - Ross Lawler-W5HFF
Recording - Secretary Joe Morgan-K5JWM
Two-year at large Director - Sid Sherwood, N5ZKD
Two-year at large Director - Robert Polanski-KD5YVQ
Cameron Mitchell - K5CAM
Paul Ruben - N8NOV

Minutes for April will be presented next month for approval.
Secretary/Treasurer's Report: will be presented for approval next month. .Total number of members is 102.

New Business: The first item of business was a proposal to change/amend the Club's Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of the State of Texas. Board member Sherwood made the motion that the Articles of Incorporation of The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club be amended/added with the state of Texas to include Article VIII. Member Ross Lawler seconded the motion. After a discussion the vote was called. The motion passed unanimously by the vote of aye 6 no 0 abstain 0. Mr. Pollard was asked to carry out all of the paperwork and fillings necessary to carry out this motion.

Emergency Business: Warehouse space will cost \$65.00 unless we find a storage for free.

Old business: The club has a new call KK5W. We are in the status of changing the trustee.
Send thank you letters to emergency vehicles and commercial vendors. Club schedule June Field Day prep and Motorola Trunking radio systems. Pump, WA5CYI, is in charge of resurrecting the annual club camp out/picnic.

Other business: Shiner Bike Ride

Meeting adjourned at 8:19pm

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 – KK5W
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.

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 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, additional 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 29, ISSUE 6

June 2005

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

**General Membership Meeting – Thursday, 7:30, June 9
Field Day – Saturday & Sunday, June 25 & 26**

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