



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

AUGUST 2005

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 8

ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The annual ICE CREAM SOCIAL and August General Membership Meeting will take place on Thursday, August 11 at 7:30 PM at the Sugar Land Community Center (directions elsewhere herein). Bring your family, some ice cream and/or fixin's for ice cream. We are encouraging you to bring some HOME MADE ice cream to share with your fellow members and their families.

BVARC PICNIC & CAMPOUT

November 12

The annual picnic and campout is being brought back. This year it will be at the Coushatta Recreation Ranch between Sealy and Bellville. It will be held in conjunction with the Amateur Radio Camper's November campout. More details will be available on the web site and later newsletters as the event approaches. "Pencil in" this date. The "little red building" has been reserved for our use.

JULY MEETING FEATURED SATELLITE QSOs

Andy MacAllister, W5ACM gave an excellent presentation about amateur radio satellite work and AMSAT. He had some interesting "show and tell" items with him. It was very informative. Many thanks to Andy, especially since we could not muster up a computer projector. The presentation was enjoyed by all.

FCC PROPOSED LICENSING CHANGES

The FCC has released its "Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order" dated July 15. Basically it proposes removing any Morse Code requirements for amateur radio licensing. There will be 3 levels of licenses now issued – Technician, General and Extra Class. There will not be any automatic upgrades. If you have a Technician or Technician Plus, you will need to pass Element 3 to have General privileges. There is a 60 day comment period and a 75 day reply comment period. Therefore, these changes will be at least a few months before they become effective.

President's Corner

Mike is traveling overseas so there will not be a President's Corner this month..

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:

2/28 - 27 - Doug, kc5vyz	4/18 - 22 - Joe, k5jwm	6/6 - 23 - Cam, k5cam
3/7 - 20 - Cam, k5cam	4/25 - 18 - Doug, kc5vyz	6/13 - 28 - Mike, n5vcx
3/14 - 28 - Larry, k5lj	5/2 - 18 - Cam, k5cam	6/20 - 13 - Mike, n5vcx
3/21 - 25 - Joe, k5jwm	5/9 - 18 - Mike, n5vcx	6/27 - 18 - Cam, k5cam
3/28 - 21 - Doug, kc5vyz	5/16 - 8 - Joe, k5jwm	7/18 - 19 - John, k5lkj
4/4 - 18 - Cam, k5cam	5/23 - 23 - Doug, kc5vyz	7/25 - 18 - Larry, k5lj
4/11 - 22 - Larry, k5lj	5/30 - 13 - Sid, n5zkd	

BVARC EATING SCHEDULE

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFASTS:

NEW YORK COFFEE SHOP, 7:30a.m., 9720 Hillcroft, in Houston.

VIKING DEN, 7:30a.m., 2939 S. Main (US90A), in Stafford.

THIRD FRIDAY DINNERS:

August 19, 7:30p.m., PANDA GARDEN CHINESE RESTAURANT

1043 Eldridge Road at Jesse Pirtle Blvd.

In Sugar Land (1 mile +/- N. of US90A).

September 16, 7:30p.m., LAFAYETTE CAJUN SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

10829 W. Bellfort at Wilcrest, in Houston.

Classic Antenna Technical Paper

In the world of antennas, there are a few technical papers and articles that are 'must read standards'. One of these is the classic, 1937 Institute of Radio Engineers paper by Brown, Lewis and Epstein (of RCA) on "Ground Systems as a Factor in Antenna Efficiency". This paper has been very frequently referenced by Amateur Radio and commercial authors over the last 70 years, as it provides the ground work (no pun intended) on the AM broadcast ground radial standard of 120, 1/2 wl buried radials. I have been looking for a complete copy for quite some time now and have recently found it.

If you would like an electronic, PDF version of this paper, please e-mail me at rhiller@sdicgm.com. File size is 1.8 Mb. I will forward it right out to you.

Rick Hiller – W5RH

UPCOMING FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

August - the ice cream social. Contact person – Ross Lawler, W5HFF.

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.

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Upcoming Hamfests

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

AUSTIN SUMMERFEST 2005

Friday August 5 (5-9 p.m.) and Saturday August 6,
2005 (8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)
Red Lion Hotel, Interstate 35 and US 290, Exit 238-A,
6121 North Interstate 35, Austin, TX

Agendas include, the Amateur-radio conventions,
including the annual meeting of the Texas VHF-FM
Society, presentations, and meetings, including civic,
technical, and crafts events, and discussions, prizes,
exams, and swapfests for ham-radio operators,
aspirants, dealers, and their families. VE testing is at
12:30 on Saturday.

\$8.00/person for advance registration, but \$10.00 at
the door.

More info at: <http://www.austinsummerfest.org>

HAM-EXPO BELTON, TX

October 1, 2005

Ham Expo -- Bell County Expo Center in Belton, Texas
From I-35 take Exit 292 to the Dome

Doors open at **7:00 a.m.** on Saturday, October 1

VE Testing at 1:00 p.m. onsite

Admission: \$1.00

**Parking lot Tailgaters will pay \$5.00 per occupied
parking space**

Talk-in Freqs: 146.82- (PL 123.0)

More info at:

<http://www.tarc.org/hamexpo/oct2002early.html>

THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

By Joe Morgan, K5JWM

June 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.

06/01/05 - K5JWM, N5CPA, K5CEK, W5HFF, K5LJ, WA5VRB, K5VRJ, AB5BA, W5RH, NM5K, W5UHZ, WB5VYR, KA5MEI. Check-ins (13)

06/08/05 - K5JWM, N5CPA, K5CEK, KE5SR, KA5MEI, K5LJ, WA5VRB, KE5CDE, W5RH, KB5SIT, K5VRJ, AB5BA, WD5IID, NM5K, W5UHZ, KB5VTB, WB5VYR. Check-ins (17)

06/15/05 - K5JWM, N5CPA, KE5SR, K5LJ, KE5CDE, KE5CFF, WO5O, W5RH, KB5SIT. Check-ins (09)

06/22/05 - K5JWM, K5CEK, KB5SIT, KE5CDE, K5LJ, WA5VRB, N5VXU, WO5O, N5CPA, W5UFK, W5UHZ. Check-ins (11)

06/29/05 - K5JWM, N5CPA, K5CEK, KB5SIT, N5VXU, W5UHZ, AB5BA, K5VRJ, W5RH, KZ5I, WO5O, KA5MEI
Check-ins (12)

B-VARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION

B-VARC sponsors and administers the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session on the second Tuesday of each month at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

As this issue goes to press, we do not have the results of the July testing session. The July and August results will be posted in the September newsletter.

Remember that the BVARC Newsletter is available on-line at the BVARC website usually several days before you receive it in the mail. Also, the web version is in color.

Note: For economic reasons, we are not publishing the calendar. It is on the BVARC website.

Houston Amateur Radio Supply

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Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. *George Di Letto KD0RW*

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06/04

BLT-21 BALLOON LAUNCH

August 20, 10 AM

Preliminary List of BLT-21 Payloads:

Sony DV Camcorder

RC Wing Glider with Color Camera ATV = 1285 FM

Solar-Battery, Very-Low-Power Beacon = 28.322 MHz

Multicam Live Main Payload Color ATV = 1255 FM

Crossband FM Repeater Uplink = 147.435 & Downlink = 446.000

Primary APRS GPS Downlink = 440.950 W5ACM-9 250 mW

Wing Glider APRS GPS Downlink = 445.925 W5ACM-8 250 mW

35-mm Camera with a picture every 160 seconds

Audio Beeper

For more details, go to: <http://www.qsl.net/w5acm/b21.html>

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 text or 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

July 07, 2005

Ross Lawler called to order, the monthly Board of Directors meeting for the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club at 7:32 pm on July 07, 2005 at the Sugar Land Community Center in Sugar Land Texas.

Note: A quorum of directors was not present, so an unofficial meeting was held - the following was discussed:

Attendees:

Treasurer/Corresponding Secretary - Ross Lawler-W5HFF
Recording Secretary - Joe Morgan-K5JWM
Cameron Mitchel - K5CAM
Pete Sauermilch - KD5QPX

Minutes for April, May, June and July 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:

Field Day meeting - 6:30 before club meeting.
Program this month will be on Amsat by Andy W5ACM.
Renew post office box – has been done.

Emergency Business:

Warehouse space will cost \$65.00 unless we find a storage for free. Sid is storing it for us now.

Old business:

The club has a new call KK5W.
Pump, WA5CYI, is in charge of resurrecting the annual club camp out/picnic.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

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.

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August 2005

**BRAZOS VALLEY
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

Ice Cream Social & General Membership Meeting – Thursday, 7:30, August 11.

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to renew your membership!*