



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

APRIL 2006

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 4

THE BVARC GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS!

The BVARC Hamfest this year was a success beyond expectations. Last year we had 4 tailgaters: This year there were 17. We had about 50% more tables taken and attendance was more than 400. The vendors seemed quite happy and the same can be said for the attendees. The featured presentation was "Amateur Radio for Tomorrow" – David Woolweaver, K5RAV West Gulf Vice Director. The raffle was very successful and the grand prize of an Icom IC-718 was won by Ildeberto Nunez. ARRL provided many of the raffle prizes as did Houston Amateur Radio Supply, Jubilee Enterprises and Electronic Parts Outlet.



Satellite QSO demo



Part of the scene

Various programs made it a true Hamfest. With various speakers, demos (satellite), VE testing, raffles, food & emergency vehicles in addition to vendors, tailgaters and private tables, there was plenty for all to see and enjoy. The VE testing resulted in 8 successful licenses or upgrades.

The BVARC GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST for 2007 will be held at the Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds. Though it is a little further out, it is only ¼ mile from the freeway thus access will actually be quicker from all parts of Houston. We will have overnight camping, Friday night setup and almost 3 times the square footage of air conditioned space. Mark your calendars for March 3, 2007.

April General Membership Meeting – Thursday, April 13.

BEGINS AT 7:00 PM, not 7:30!!!

The program will be "Skywarn Certification Class." A presentation and instruction will be given. Those attending will be certified for Skywarn. Because there will actually be instruction, the meeting starts ½ hour early, at 7:00 PM. See elsewhere herein for location details.

More photos from the Hamfest



Tailgaters



General Scene



Emergency Vehicles



Food for All



Talk in, M.C./P.A. and raffle cage.



More general scene

Upcoming Hamfests

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

Belton Ham Expo

22 April 2006

Temple Amateur Radio Club

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

Talk-in Freq: 146.82- (PL 123.0)

Phone: 254-773-3590 (answering machine picks up after 6 rings)

Hamcom

Plano Center, Plano TX

June 9 & 10, 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM

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

Presidential Corner.

The 5th Annual Greater Houston Hamfest was a great success, both in numbers and financially. This year there were over 400 people attending and the club has a little over \$1,000 more in the treasury. Other than set-up problems first thing Saturday morning (several members came in Friday night and set up all the tables and chairs for the hamfest then the cleaning crew came in at 3 am and put everything back up!) the hamfest went well. I want to thank everyone that helped out on the planning and coordinating the hamfest. Without your help the hamfest would have not happened.

Next year's Greater Houston Hamfest planning is already in motion. If you have not heard, it will be held at Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in building C. This will allow the hamfest to really grow because we will now have nearly 18,000 sq ft of exhibit space instead of the current 6,000. We will also have overnight camping available as well as Friday night set-up for the commercial vendors. So put March 3, 2007 on your calendar and let one of the board of directors know that you are ready to help out.

Our next meeting we will have a Sky Warn class presented by the National Weather service. If you missed attending the class in Richmond in February, now is the time to make it. Now is the time to get ready for hurricane season which is just barely two months away.

And speaking of getting ready for hurricane season, the best training available for emergency communications is just around the corner. The BP MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Tour will be held this year on April 22nd and 23rd and will need over 125 amateur operators to provide communications for this premier cycling event. So if you would like to put your radio and license to a good use, come out and volunteer.

Field Day is just around the corner and the Field Day wonders are coordinating it again. If you would like to get involved with Field Day, contact Ross, W5HFF, or John, K5IZO or Allen, N5XZ.

Hope to see you on the MS150!

73,
N5VCX

BVARC License Classes – General License Class – Begins April 30

Because of the Easter weekend on April 15-16 and both the Belton Hamfest and the MS-150 on the weekend of April 23, the next level of classes (General class – Element 3) will be held beginning Saturday April 30. This will be a 9 hour class, 3 hours on each of the 3 consecutive Saturdays (April 30, May 6 and May 13).

Classes take place at St. Paul Presbyterian at the corner of Bellaire and SW Freeway. **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED;** Contact Ross at W5HFF@yahoo.com or John at K5IZO@yahoo.com if you wish to attend.

We need 4 pre-registered attendees for the class to “make.” If we do not receive confirmation from 4 persons, we will call those that did register and reschedule. **Do not show up for the first session without pre-registering!**

Ross Lawler, W5HFF, and John Chauvin, K5IZO, will once again be teaching this class. There are no fees however you will need a copy of the General Class License Manual. We can order this for you at a 25% discount with no taxes nor shipping fees but this must be about 10 days before the first class (\$16.95 – 25% = \$12.75). Otherwise, you can get the book at Frys, Electronic Parts Outlet or Houston Amater Radio (\$16.95 + Tax = \$18.35) Supply.

**RESULTS OF THE March 4th
B-VARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION
by: John Moore, KK5NU**

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that were held on Saturday, March 4, 2006 at the Greater Houston Hamfest at the Sugar Land Community Center in Sugar Land.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Dennis Dietrich, W5DDD
Jeff Fussell, KD5VGE
Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
John Moore, KK5NU

Fourteen examination elements were administered during the event to eleven applicants. Five new Technician licenses were attained, there was an upgrade to Tech w/HF, one upgrade to General class license, and two additional Element 3's passed; with the total number of elements passed being 10. The overall "pass rate" for the day was 71.4%.

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

Peter J. Barry	-	-	-	Technician
Ronald L. Dearman		KA5LWE		Tech w/HF
David J. Elsner	-	KL7THJ	-	General
Jessica A. Miller		-	-	Technician
Edward C. Sarlls, III		KE5HHZ	-	Element 3
Terry L. Thompson		-	-	Technician
Jeffery S. Williams		-	-	Technician
Chuck Zabriski	-	-	-	Technician & Element 3

Many thanks to all the Team Members and Assistants who volunteer their valuable time and effort each month.
..... 73

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Successful Satellite Demonstration at Greater Houston Hamfest

by Allen Mattis N5AFV

Operation on amateur radio satellites was successfully demonstrated at the BVARC-sponsored Greater Houston Hamfest on March 4th. Two passes of AMSAT OSCAR 51 (AO-51) occurred during the hamfest. For the first satellite pass (9:12 AM) approximately 15 people gathered to watch the demonstration just as the satellite came up over the horizon. Activity on the satellite was lively, and contacts were made with ten US states and the Canadian province of Newfoundland. Because this pass occurred almost immediately after the doors were opened to the main room with tables and vendors, people quickly drifted away to peruse the items for sale. The demonstration for the first pass was very successful in terms of the observers being able to hear the many contacts because a separate receiving station with an extension speaker was used.

For the second satellite pass (10:51 AM) approximately 25 people gathered about five minutes before the satellite came up over the horizon. We had time to explain what we were going to do and to answer questions before the bird came up over the horizon. When the pass began, the observers knew what were doing because it had already been explained. Activity on the second satellite pass also was lively, and stations from western Canada and Mexico were heard as well as many stations in the western US. After the satellite passed below the horizon, we had discussion and questions for ten minutes.

The demonstrations were very successful in that most of the equipment used was similar to what many hams already have. Both passes were worked with Icom W32A HT's, and Arrow antennas. The Pryme (Premier) AL800 telescoping antenna, which costs about \$30 and works well for satellite operation, was also shown to the observers. We wanted the observers to understand that it does not take thousands of dollars and complicated high-tech gear to work the satellites. I want to thank Will Thomas, KE5CWC, and Dan Thomas, KE5DQZ, for helping with the demonstrations.

REMEMBER
The April General Membership meeting
starts at 7:00 PM (not 7:30)
Thursday, April 13

Public Service Events needing operators

Brookwood Spirit Rally Bicycle Ride **8:00 am Saturday, April 8, 2006**

Fifteen operators are needed for this event in the Brookshire/Katy area. Talk-in and event will be on the 444.075 plus offset, 141.3 tone repeater.

Volunteers will need to meet 5:00 a.m. **Saturday** morning at Denny's on Fry road just north of Instate 10. Assignments tee shirts will be passed out at that time. If you have any questions, please give Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, a call at 713-826-6917. Lunch will be provided for all volunteers.

BP MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Tour

Saturday, April 22 & Sunday, April 23, 2006

www.ms150.org

It is time to plan and prepare for the largest 2 day bike ride of its kind in the US. The BP MS150 will have over 12,000 riders this year covering over 200 miles of Texas roads. Communications for this event is one of the most important and vital areas of the ride and 135 operators are needed to handle this critical role. To provide the best communications possible everything from HF to VHF to UHF is used during the ride. APRS is also used to track the medical vehicles as well as other critical support vehicles.

Sign up to be an operator for this year's BP MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Tour. **You need to sign up as soon as possible to insure that sleeping arrangements are reserved.** Due to the large number of riders and volunteers, sleeping arrangements are in short supply. If you planning to volunteer for the event, I must know what kind of arrangements you need.

Positions available:

Net Control in Bellville, Houston, LaGrange and Austin - total of 20 operators needed
Break Point operators - 25 operators are needed
SAG and transport communications - 15 operators are needed
Supply communications - 5 operators are needed
Medical Communications - 30 operators are needed
Houston and LaGrange Command Post communicators - 25 operators are needed
911 Center locations - 5 operators are needed
MS150 staff - 5 operators

The Houston Command Post this year will be coordinating medical communications for the entire course. More operators will be needed to man the operating positions in Houston for medical communications.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact me as soon as possible. Two communications meetings will be held the week before the ride at the MS office, 8111 North Stadium Drive (just north of the AstroDome) on April 17th and 19th at 7 pm. Please plan to attend one of the meetings. Let me know which meeting you will attend so the correct amount of food can be ordered. Talk-in will be available on the 147.00 plus offset 103.5 tone repeater.

On Saturday morning, April 22, operators will meet at the METRO Park-n-Ride at 4:30 a.m. for t-shirts and any last minute information. Operators will then install equipment in medical vehicles, SAGS and supply trucks. Talk-in will be on the 145.19 minus 123.0 tone repeater. Event frequencies will be available at the communications meetings. The frequency list will also be available as well on www.houstonhams.org one week before the ride. Remember the minimum equipment requirements are a VHF radio with no less than 25 watts of power and a gain type antenna (19 inch antennas do not work!). UHF is used on the ride and it is a plus if you have a dual band radio or you can at least monitor UHF.

This is one event that really can test you and your equipment under disaster type communications and you can sign up at www.houstonhams.org .If you have any questions about volunteering, please call me at 713-771-4625.

Several people that worked communications during Hurricane Katrina and Rita have said that the MS150 is the best training for emergency communications.

So come on out and volunteer for the MS150. Put your radio and license to the best use every.

Thanks,

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
713-771-4625

Help In Understanding Transmission Lines -- Two Highly Recommended (and Free) On-line Sources

By Rick Hiller -- W5RH

Our Amateur Radio station equipment consists of 2 main parts – a radio and an antenna system. The antenna ‘system’ consists of three main sub-systems -- matching networks (tuners,) transmission lines (coax, etc.) and the antenna itself. Typically, the antenna is the focus of the majority of our efforts, as this is the portion of the system that most directly affects the reception and transmission signal strength. Therefore, designing, building and erecting the antenna takes up a majority of time that we spend on this portion of our station.

The other critical sub-system is the ‘transmission line’, more commonly referred to as the ‘feed line’. Hams don’t necessarily need to know how or why transmission lines function as they do, but we should at least know and understand the characteristics and attributes of the different feed line types and of feedlines in general. Things like: knowing that a transmission line is most efficient when it’s characteristic Z is matched by the source and the load, or knowing that feedline losses rise due to increasing frequency, length and/or VSWR, etc.

Hams should also know that transmission lines can provide some unique tools to use within the antenna subsystem. For example, in certain instances and applications, transmission lines can 1) act as the matching system (ie. series section transformers and stubs), or 2) generate the proper phasing for phased arrays and 3) be utilized as lumped value inductors and capacitors for antenna loading, matching and phasing.

In order to assist you in getting up to speed on the topic of transmission lines, I can recommend two readily available sources, which are online and free. These two sources can provide you with basic theoretical knowledge and very practical, ‘real world’, knowledge. One source is available from the US Army and the other is taken from the pages of QST.

From the theory side: US Army Mars web site has the Army training manual Communications-Electronics Fundamentals “ Wave Propagation, Transmission Lines and Antennas”

<http://www.armymars.net/ArmyMARS/Antennas/Resources/tc9-64.pdf>

Read Chapter 3 – Principles of Transmission Lines

From the practical side: Walt Maxwell’s updated series on SWR “Another Look at Reflections”, based on his 1970’s, multi-part, QST article “Reflections”

If you are an ARRL member, get it at: www.arrl.org/members-only/tis/info/pdf/Reflect.pdf As of March 25th, I was also able to download it from <http://homepages.ipact.nl/~pa1are/tuner/reflections.pdf>

Please note that , the ARRL Antenna Handbook , Walt Maxwell’s book “Reflections III ” and other Ham Radio oriented books are, also, very good references, but , they are not available on line or, more importantly, ‘free’ to download, as the references above.

If you have any questions or need some clarification, please feel free to e-mail me at rhiller@sdicgm.com.

Getting the most power to and from your antenna is the main function of the transmission line. When you design and implement the feedline to do just that, you will have the best signal possible. A great signal means more contacts and, hence, more fun.....and that’s what’s it’s all about.
Enjoy – Rick – W5RH

ANTENNA GUY LINE

Mack Arp W5EET

I like to participate in field operations often and have used many types of lightweight rope to guy my vertical masts as well as pull up dipoles. Most type of twines/ropes work OK for short periods of time, but I was never really satisfied. I was forever looking for something lightweight, but strong, would not curl up and would be UV resistant. Last year, while attending the local DX club meeting some of the members had just returned from a Dxpedition and were showing a presentation of their operations. My ears perked up when they mentioned a lightweight guy line they used to guy their beams on 40' push-up poles. They commented that there was 50 MPH winds most of the time they were there and they had no failures with the line. As far as longevity, one member of the team claimed that he had used it for guying antennas at his home QTH since 1996 and it had never failed.

The line is a tarred, 100% nylon twine and is made by Wallace Cordage Company (Covington, TN). I purchased a roll of # 48, which is 351 feet long and claims a tensile strength of 440 pounds at Academy for under \$6.00, and so far have never had a failure. I re-use the guy lines over and over.

Another favorite of mine for permanent guying and holding up dipoles at the home QTH is .085 clear, weed eater string. It is a bear for curling up so I never tried using it in the field. I have had some in use for 10 years and it has never failed due to exposure to UV. I find it to be great for holding up dipoles because it stretches nicely when anchored to trees and the wind moves the trees back and forth. The clear color is also invisible when in the air, which is great for deed restricted neighborhoods. There has been many mornings when I went out to retrieve the newspaper and thought that my antennas had fallen, because I did not see the clear string.

73 Mack

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Minutes of March 2nd, 2006 meeting; Board of Directors

1. **Call to Order:** Mike Hardwick called the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors meeting to order at 7:30 PM on March 2nd, 2006 at the Denny's Restaurant, 8199 SW Freeway; Houston, Texas.
2. **Attendees:**

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX (Pres.)	Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM (At Large)	Randy Pollard, AK5G
Allen Brier, N5XZ (VP)	Sid Sherwood, N5ZXD (2-Y. Dir.)	Charles Frost, K5LBU
Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.)	Robert Polinski, KD5YZQ (1-Yr. Dir.)	Rich Hiller, W5RH
John Chauvin, K5IZO	Steve Agee, N5ZUA	
3. **Reports:** Minutes for the February Board of Directors Meeting and the Secretary/Treasurer's Report were tabled until the April meeting. This was done to create additional time deal with Hamfest issues.
4. **Old Business:**
 - 4.1. Hamfest Update: The Task & Volunteer List was reviewed and last minute revisions made. The board decided that Chauvin should create a special (short) BVARC newsletter for distribution at the hamfest. 250 copies were to be printed. Hardwick had secured 19 vests for volunteers to wear. Sugar Land Parks & Recreation (SLP\$R) had refused to allow BVARC to receive Community Center (CC) keys. SLP\$R was to have the CC open by 6:30 AM the morning of the hamfest. There was an expression of concern by many at the meeting. Sauermilch was to check the CC doors on Friday evening and place a call on the 145.45 repeater to the set-up work party. If we could enter the building we would set-up on Friday, otherwise Saturday morning at 6:30AM.
 - 4.2. Club Schedule:
 - 4.2.1. **February:** New Ham/New Member Night was thought to be a success. BVARC received 10 new members. The Saturday Technician License class has a total of 6 participants.
 - 4.2.2. **March:** Motorola Canopy Wireless System
 - 4.2.3. **April:** Skywarn The NWS speaker is confirmed and certification will be presented to those attending. This is a 2 to 2-1/2 hour presentation. **The April meeting start time will be 7:00 PM** and the Skywarn **presentation will start at 7:30 PM.**
 - 4.2.4. **May:** Saltgrass Network: The presentation will be by Steve Agee and will cover how the Saltgrass Network works and how it is intended to be used.

5. **New business:** The 145.45 Repeater: No discussion.
6. **Other Business:** Public Service Events:
 - 6.1. Blue Bonnet Express
 - 6.2. Tour de Cypress
 - 6.3. MS150 - 13,000 riders, registration closed
7. **Adjournment: 8:20 PM**

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Peter Sauermilch-KD5QPX

March General Membership Meeting

Featured Steve Zilis, N9EXU, talking on the Motorola Canopy system, which offers minimal BPL interference.



THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

By Joe Morgan, K5JWM, Net Coordinator

January & February 2006 check-ins

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

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.

01/04/06__K5JWM, KB5VRY, N5CPA, AD5UW, KE5SR, K5CEK, W5HFF, K5LJ, WA5CYI, W5RH, WA2PCY, KE5CUT, KE5CDE, WA5VRB, KD5RDR, K5VRJ, AB5BA. check_ins (16)

01/11/06__K5JWM, KB5SIT, N5CPA, W5HFF, WA5CYI, K5LJ, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KA5MEI, KE5CDE, WA5VRB, KE5CUT, N5ROG, N5VXU, K5CEK, AD5UW, W5RH, W5RJA, KK5LO, KK5UO, NM5K, N4ALP, N5SZ, N7FKI. check_ins (24)

01/18/06__K5JWM, N5CPA, K5CEK, W5HFF, KE5CUT, K5LJ, KB5SIT, W5RH, KD5CDE, N5VXU check_ins (10)

01/25/06__K5JWM, KB5SIT, W5RJA, W5HFF, N5CPA, KE5CUT, K5LJ, KE5SR, K5CEK, NM5K, KD5O, WA5VRB, N5DTT, KD5QPX, KE5CDE, W5RH, KB5F. check-ins (17)

02/01/06__K5JWM, W5HFF, W5RH, W5RJA, N5CPA, KE5CDE, KD5QPX, KE5CUT, K5LJ, W5UHZ, WA5VRB, AD5UW, KZ5I, KA5MEI,KB5F, W5UFK, WO5O .check_ins (17)

02/08/06__K5JWM, N0JAA, W5UHZ, N5CPA, KE5SR, K5CEK, WA5TWL, KU4MY, K4KA, W5RJA, KE5CUT, K5VRJ, AB5BA. check_ins (13)

02/15/06__K5JWM, W5RH, K5LJ, KE5CDE, K5VRJ, AB5BA, N5CPA, W5UHZ, NM5K, WA5VRB, KA6QDE, KA5MEI, N0JAA, W5HFF, AD5UW, WB5VYR, KA5LMZ, KB5SIT, KK5LO, WB4KTF, KD5RDR. check_ins (20)

02/22/06__K5JWM, N5CPA, K5CEK, KE5SR, K5VRJ, AB5BA, WB5VYR, WO5O, KA5MEI, N0JAA, K5LJ, W5UHZ, WA5VRB, W5RH, NM5K, WV0J. check_ins (16)

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the February 2, 2006 meeting; Board of Directors

Mike Hardwick called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:30 PM on February 2nd, 2006 at the Denny's Restaurant, Sugar Land Texas.

Attendees:

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX (Pres.)

Allen Brier, N5XZ (V P)

Ross Lawler-W5HFF (Treas./Cor. Sec.)

Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.)

Robert Polinski, KD5YZQ (1-Yr. Dir.)

Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM (Past Pres.)

John Chauvin, K5IZO

Charles Frost, K5LBU

Minutes for the January 2006 meeting was presented for reading and approved. Secretary/Treasurer's Report was presented to the Board. Club has \$1,5219.39 in assets and \$120.56 in liabilities.

New Business:

145.45 repeater discussion shelved until next board meeting.

Old business:

1. Board meetings will now be on 1st Thursday, 7:30PM; alternating between the Denny's Hwy. 6, Sugar Land and US59/Gessner, Houston.
2. General meeting activities were discussed.
February: __ Discovering Ham Radio Night
March: __ Skywarn (tentative)
April: __ Saltgrass Network (suggested)
May: __ ARES (suggested)
June: __ African DX Expedition (suggested)
July: __ AMSAT (suggested)
3. Again BVARC needs storage space for club property. Sid Sherwood is still storing everything at his house.
4. Gene Horr had informed the board that he plans to move from his current house into an apartment. The board anticipates that this would make his printing the newsletter impossible and made tentative plans to use commercial printers for the newsletter.
5. Pete Sauermilch will now be back-up webmaster.
6. Discussion of Field Day, possible by-law changes, and board format shelved until after hamfest.
7. There was limited discussion of the March Hamfest. Inclusive Hamfest discussion was scheduled for Saturday morning at the Viking Den after the Saturday ham breakfast.

Other business:

1. Hams for Hospitals will have a meeting on Feb. 11. Those interested contact Mike Hardwick.
2. MS150 ride has 13,000 riders registered.
3. Rick Hiller, W5RH, is scanning old BVARC news letters to DVDs.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary Peter Sauermilch-KD5QPX

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<http://texasparadise.com/hars/> George DiLetto KD0RW

2006 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:

Pete Sauermilch
kd5qpx@arrl.net

One Year Board Member:

Robert Polanski, KD5YVQ
polinski@swbell.net

Two Year Board Member:

Sid Sherwood, N5ZKD
n5zkd@arrl.net

Past President / At-large

Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM
k5cam@arrl.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,
Various TBA,
See the website.

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 of this edition.

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

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:

**April 21, 7:30p.m., TIO PEPE'S SPANISH RESTAURANT
5213 Cedar in Bellaire.**

**May 19, 7:30p.m., THE HICKORY BARN BARBECUE
11534 Wilcrest in Houston**

UPCOMING FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

March – Skywarn

April - The Saltgrass Network

May - ARES

June - Field Day & TBD

July - AMSAT

August - Ice Cream Social

Monday Night NET Updates

Don't forget the Monday Night Public Service Net starts at **8 pm**, 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:

12/12 - 15 - Mike, n5vcx

12/26 - 18 - Pete, kd5qpx

1/9 - 16 - Pete, kd5qpx

1/23 - 28 - Pete, kd5qpx

2/6 - 32 - Cam, k5cam

2/20 - 21 - Sid, n5zkd

3/6 - 24 - Cam, k5cam

3/20 - 19 - Sid, n5zkd

12/19 - 22 - Sid, n5zkd

1/2/2006 - 18 - Sid, n5zkd

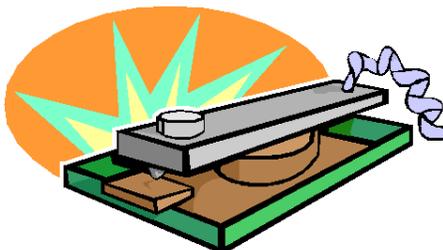
1/16 - 21 - Sid, n5zkd

1/30 - 22 - Doug, kc5vyz

2/13 - 30 - Mike, n5vcx

2/27 - 23 - Pete, kd5qpx

3/13 - 22 - Pete, kd5qpx





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.bvarc.org>
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. BVARC is a Non-Profit Corporation classified by IRS as 501-(c)-(3).

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 p.m. on the 146.880 (minus, 103.5 tone) or the 145.45 (minus, no tone) repeater & a rag chew net is held each Wednesday at 7 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 281-701-7602 or w5hff@yahoo.com or the BVARC website at www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc.

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 4

April 2006

**BRAZOS VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 1630
MISSOURI CITY TX 77459-1630
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BVARC General Membership Meeting, April 13. 7:00 PM

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