



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

JUNE 2006

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 6

## JUNE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**ARES**



The regular BVARC general membership meeting takes place on Thursday, June 8, at 7:30 PM at the Sugar Land Community Center (map on [www.bvarc.org](http://www.bvarc.org)). The featured presentation will be on ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service). The featured speakers will be Orin Snook, KB5F, the Fort Bend County ARES coordinator and Ken Mitchell, KD2KW, Harris county ARES district emergency coordinator. There will be a WINLINK demo. This is a timely meeting since the hurricane season officially starts on June 1.

## FIELD DAY 2006 - JUNE 24-25

Field Day will again take place at the Fireman's Training Center in Richmond.

- There will be laid back as well as moderately competitive operations with primary emphasis on various diverse activities for all.
- Special stations will be set up to allow the Technician licensees to work 6M and 2M.
- A GOTA station will be provided for those who don't have licenses or who haven't been on the air for a long time.
- HF stations will be set up so visitors and Technician licensees can make contacts while under the supervision of a General Class (or higher) licensed ham.
- There will be demonstrations of various modes such as satellite, APRS, possibly SSTV and other digital modes as well as operating with solar power.
- As usual, there will be a lot of food throughout the 2 days and in particular the "main feed" will be Bar-B-Que at 6PM Saturday night.

**Bring your family!**

**OPERATORS NEEDED – Especially CW!!!!**

If you want to operate, provide equipment or help in any way, contact Ross Lawler, W5HFF, Allen Brier, N5XZ or John Chauvin, K5IZO. Their contact information is on the last 2 pages of this newsletter.

## President's Corner

Two very important dates are approaching - Field Day and the start of hurricane season. By getting ready for one of them, you can get ready for the other. Whether you put together a "to go kit" or come out and help with field day, get involved and get ready. Amateur radio has the availability to provide communications during times of emergencies and disasters but only if everyone is ready and prepared. So give John or Ross or Allen a call and let them know you will be available to help for field day. But if you are not able to help there, get your equipment ready and contact the coordinators at ARES or RACES and let them know you are ready to help them. Be ready, get involved and put your license to a good use.

Over the last few months the general meetings have been centered around a central topic - emergency communications. The June meeting will be following that topic with a presentation from Fort Bend county ARES coordinator Orin Snook, KB5F and Ken Mitchell, KD2KW, Harris county ARES district emergency coordinator. They will be presenting information on ARES and its mission on providing emergency communications and a demonstration on WINLINK. Make sure you come on out to see what you can do to help during emergencies.

Don't forget about Plano Hamcom on June 9 & 10. So far it looks like there will be more vendors than ever as well as participants. Also don't forget the Texas City Hamfest in July if you cannot make the Plano event.

The wrap meeting for the MS150 had several pieces of great news - pledge money is reaching nearly 10 millions dollars and the number of medical transports was the lowest ever. All in all a very successful fund raising event with amateur radio playing a very important role.

Everyone have a great field day and summer. I will be on the road during the month of June and parts of July. If everything falls into place, I will be on 7245 and 14320 during the day as I drive around the entire state of New York doing site surveys at 51 tower sites. Who knows, I might even get a little work done!

73,  
N5VCX

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## SALTGRASS PRESENTATION WELL RECEIVED

An informative presentation on the Saltgrass Network was given at the May general membership meeting by Steve Agee, N5ZUA. We thank Steve for his time and effort.



Steve Agee talking with members



Some of the members during the break

## BVARC License Classes

We recently completed a Technician License class for 7 people at the Catholic Charities. It is their intent to have an emergency communications network in place for this hurricane season. Several may attend this month's general membership meeting which features ARES, so please welcome them.

Because of Field Day, the next class will not begin until late July. That will be for the Extra Class License. Details will be in the July newsletter and of course on the BVARC web site.

Contact Ross at [W5HFF@yahoo.com](mailto:W5HFF@yahoo.com) or John at [K5IZO@yahoo.com](mailto:K5IZO@yahoo.com) if you wish to attend.

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### Houston Amateur Radio Supply

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

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## Transmission Line Matching Techniques – New References to Theory and Practical Application

Rick Hiller – W5RH

In the March issue of the B-VARC newsletter, I told you about some free on-line references for transmission line theory: the US Army training manual of "Communications-Electronics Fundamentals" and Walt Maxwell's "Another Look at Reflections".

If you are interested in expanding the knowledge found in these initial references, I can refer you to some additional material recently published in a great magazine called High Frequency Electronics. Luckily, these articles can be found in the HFE online archives at <http://www.highfrequencyelectronics.com/> Select "Article Archives" on the left. The articles I am referring to are:

[The Yin-Yang of Matching: Part 1—Basic Matching Concepts](#)—Randy Rhea March 2006 issue

[The Yin-Yang of Matching: Part 2—Practical Matching Techniques](#)—Randy Rhea April 2006 issue

These articles contain information that is also available in other popular Ham Radio theory books, for example, the ARRL Antenna Handbook. It is, however, always a good idea to have two, or more, references on a subject because a different author just might explain it better for you. So enjoy these new online articles and don't forget to save them as a PDF in your Radio Antenna library on your hard drive. That way you will have them for future reference. A reference, on how get your library set up and generate the appropriate PDF output from any source, can be found in the B-VARC Newsletter December 2004 "[Ham Radio Information Storage Solution](#)".

Note that, thanks to the web-meisters of B-VARC-- K5CAM, Cam and KD5QPX, Pete, the December 2004 and March 2006 newsletters are online, along with all of the other issues going back a few years. Find them at [www.bvarc.org](http://www.bvarc.org) "newsletters".

Enjoy the new articles. W5RH

# Operating the FM LEO Satellites from Europe using an HT and AL800 Antenna

by Allen Mattis N5AFV, n5afv@amsat.org

## Introduction

A recent business trip to Copenhagen provided me with an opportunity to operate the FM LEO satellites in Europe. The entire trip including travel took slightly less than four days. Other satellite operators told me that the FM birds are very congested over Europe and that it would be difficult to make contacts with an HT and AL800, but I was looking forward to the challenge. The experience I gained operating the FM LEO satellites on this trip allows me to make some comparisons between operating on the FM satellites in the United States versus operating on them in Europe.

## Operating Conditions

The operating conditions on this trip were not the most favorable. My choice of equipment was my usual Icom W32A HT with an AL800 telescoping antenna. Since I was traveling light and not checking any baggage, I did not take along any back up equipment except for an MFJ-1717 antenna in case my AL800 antenna was confiscated by airport security, or damaged. The AL800 antenna was examined very carefully by airport security personnel in Frankfurt, Germany, but after explaining that it was an antenna for the radio that was packed with it, I was allowed to carry the AL800 onto the airplane.

I did not take any type of battery charger with me. My battery chargers would not work in Europe without adapters, so I took along three fully charged batteries. I can usually work eight to ten satellite passes on one battery, and since I would only be in Copenhagen for less than 48 hours, I felt that the three batteries would last for the entire visit.

The weather conditions in Copenhagen were challenging. The temperature range was 32 to 45 degrees F (0 to 7 degrees C) with frequent light to moderate rain occasionally mixed with snow. It was actually a little exhilarating for me to work a station while snow flakes were hitting my face.

## Summary of Contacts

While in Copenhagen, I was able to operate on all three currently active FM satellites (AO-27, SO-50 and AO-51). I attempted to work 21 different passes, and made a total of 28 contacts (Figure 1).

Satellite	Number of Passes	Number of Contacts
AO-27	6	4
SO-50	11	12
AO-51	4	12
Totals	21	28

Figure 1: Satellite Passes and Contacts worked by OZ/N5AFV, April 3-4, 2006, Copenhagen

As I had been told to expect, it is more difficult to make contacts on the FM satellites from Europe than from the United States. Observations I made while working 21 different passes provide a basis for comparing operation on the FM LEO birds in Europe versus in the United States (Figure 2).

Date	UTC	Satellite	Elevation	Contacts	Comments
3-Apr-06	1302	AO-27	21	0	Ending telemetry heard at AOS
3-Apr-06	1440	AO-27	86	0	Very congested, 2.5 minutes of repeater followed by ending telemetry
3-Apr-06	1621	AO-27	20	0	Very congested, 2 minutes of repeater followed by ending telemetry
4-Apr-06	1234	AO-27	12	0	Ending telemetry heard at AOS
4-Apr-06	1412	AO-27	12	1	Very congested, 1.5 minutes of repeater followed by ending telemetry
4-Apr-06	1552	AO-27	30	3	2 minutes of repeater followed by ending telemetry, 3 stations heard
3-Apr-06	1107	SO-50	51	0	Alone on bird, could hear myself in downlink
3-Apr-06	1248	SO-50	49	1	3 or 4 stations heard
3-Apr-06	1430	SO-50	29	1	1 station heard
3-Apr-06	1612	SO-50	34	3	4 or 5 stations heard
3-Apr-06	1753	SO-50	88	3	5 or 6 stations heard
3-Apr-06	1934	SO-50	22	0	2 stations heard, QRM from terrestrial stations and dead carrier
4-Apr-06	1137	SO-50	88	1	3 stations heard, dead carrier QRM
4-Apr-06	1318	SO-50	35	0	WD1ONE call sign heard at AOS, 3 stations heard on pass, heavy QRM
4-Apr-06	1500	SO-50	28	2	2 stations heard
4-Apr-06	1642	SO-50	48	1	2 stations heard, snow was falling while I worked the pass
4-Apr-06	1823	SO-50	50	0	5 stations heard, dead carrier QRM
3-Apr-06	1816	AO-51	30	4	Very congested, many stations heard, made contacts near end of pass
3-Apr-06	1955	AO-51	52	2	Extremely congested and difficult to get in with HT & AL800
4-Apr-06	1738	AO-51	18	2	Very congested until bird moved farther north
4-Apr-06	1915	AO-51	79	4	Congested, many stations heard, made contacts near end of pass

Figure 2: Satellite Passes worked by OZ/N5AFV, April 3-4, 2006, Copenhagen

Because the FM LEO satellites each have their own characteristics and related performance, each satellite will be discussed separately. I was able to operate multiple passes of each satellite and make observations about how operating conditions vary from what we experience in the United States.

#### AO-27

The analog repeater on AO-27 is programmed to turn on for a six-minute window while passing over the central third of the Northern Hemisphere. In the southern United States, we hear 20 seconds of beginning telemetry, six minutes of repeater operation, and a final 60 seconds of telemetry. On two AO-27 passes that I attempted to work from Copenhagen, the bird was in the final telemetry stage when I had AOS. Copenhagen is at the same approximate latitude as Juneau, AK, and the six-minute window is already over on lower elevation passes when the bird comes up over the horizon. On higher elevation passes, I heard approximately 2 ½ minutes of the six-minute window before onset of the final telemetry. Many European stations are waiting for AOS and immediately start calling when they hear the downlink. This results in tremendous congestion and only a few powerful stations get through. The congestion is heavier than we have in the United States on holiday week end passes of AO-51; however, I did manage to make one contact under those conditions.

On the last pass of AO-27 that I worked from Copenhagen there was no congestion. I heard three other stations on that pass, and was able to work all of them. Similar to what we have in the United States, there were also a number of terrestrial stations that did not appear to know that they were operating on a satellite uplink frequency. Due to the heavy congestion on the other AO-27 passes, I had not been able to hear these stations and the resulting QRM.

#### SO-50

In the United States, we know that SO-50 is the most difficult of the FM birds to hear because its downlink only runs 250mw. For that reason, many of the satellite operators in the United States avoid operating on SO-50. On the first SO-50 pass I tried to work from Copenhagen, I could hear myself in the downlink, but no one else was on the bird – I had it all to myself! This also happens from time to time in the United States. On later SO-50 passes I heard a number of other stations, but whenever someone would key up with a 67.0 Hz tone, the repeater would drop their signal in a few seconds because a stronger signal without the 67.0 Hz tone would cover them up. This situation makes it difficult to complete contacts, but eventually some stations manage to do so.

I was able to make a fair number of contacts on SO-50. The QRM was not as bad on some passes, and operation on SO-50 at these times was not much different than in the United States. I did have a pleasant surprise on one west pass when I heard Mark, VO1ONE, just as I had AOS. Two Spanish stations were trying to work Mark and I was not able to get through, but it was very nice to hear a familiar call sign so far from home. After a minute or so Mark was out of the footprint and I was not able to make any contacts on that pass.

#### AO-51

The congestion I observed on AO-51 did not appear to be as heavy as what I experienced on AO-27. This probably results from having the full pass to operate on the satellite instead of just a portion of the AO-27 six-minute window. I operated four passes of AO-51 and made contacts on all of them. I made four contacts on each of two passes of AO-51. When I use my HT and AL800 in the United States, I usually average five contacts on an AO-51 pass, so I did not make as many contacts in Copenhagen as I usually do in the United States.

#### Contributing Factors

A number of factors negatively affected my ability to make contacts in Copenhagen. First of all, the number of call sign prefixes that you will hear on a LEO satellite pass in Europe is significantly greater than what you will hear on LEO satellite passes in the United States. I worked eleven different DXCC entities in the 28 contacts I made. Because a number of the letter combinations in the prefixes were unfamiliar to me, I had difficulty copying some of the call signs the first time I heard them, and this negatively affected the number of contacts I was able to make. Secondly, while almost all of the operators spoke English, some of the accents were very heavy and that also made it difficult for me to understand some of the operators. By the end of my satellite operation in Copenhagen, however, I was clearly copying the call signs more easily and understanding the operators better.

Another difference between working the FM LEO satellites in Europe versus the United States is that the Europeans make a full exchange during the contact. The complete six-digit grid square identifier is exchanged, as well as a signal report. In the United States, we usually only exchange a four-digit grid square identifier, and because the signal we copy is really the satellite repeater and not the station we are working, we usually do not give a signal report. The longer time that it takes to pass this additional exchange in Europe adds to the congestion on the satellites.

#### Conclusions

Operating on the FM LEO satellites in Europe was very exciting, and I worked a number of the active European satellite operators. When they heard that I was standing out in the rain in near-freezing temperatures using an HT with a telescoping antenna, they went out of their way to make me feel welcome. I always enjoy making new friends through our hobby of amateur radio.

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## THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

*By Joe Morgan, K5JWM, Net Coordinator*

March 2006 check-ins

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

04/05/06--K5JWM, N5CPA, KB5SIT, W5HFF, K5HFY, KE5EEE, KA5MEI, KB5F, WA5VRB, WB5SRN, W5KCH, K5VRJ, AB5BA, WA5TWL. Check-ins (14)

04/12/06--K5JWM, KB5SIT, WA5TWL, K5CEK, KE5SR, N5CPA, K5VRJ, AB5BA, WO5O, K5LJ, WA5VRB, W5UHZ, KE5CUT, KZ5I, W5KV, W5RJA. Check-ins (16)

04/19/06--K5JWM, KB5SIT, KD5ZZA, N5CPA, KE5CDE, KE5CFF, W5HFF, K5CEK, KE5SR, K5LJ, W5UHZ, N0JAA, WA5VRB, W5RH, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KE5BCD, WO5O. Check-ins (18)

04/26/06--K5JWM, KB5SIT, KB5ELT, N5CPA, KE5SR, K5CEK, K5LJ, WA5VRB, AB5BA, K5VRJ, W5RH, KK5NS, W5UFK, WO5O, KG5KV, KD6QZH, KZ5I. Check-ins (16)

## Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

### Minutes of May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006 meeting; Board of Directors

- 1) Mike Hardwick called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:30 PM on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at the Denny's Restaurant, 8199 SW Freeway; Houston, Texas. Attending were 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.); Sid Sherwood, N5ZXD (2-Y. Dir.); Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM (At Large); Charles Frost, K5LBU; John Chauvin, K5IZO; Rich Hiller, W5RH; Randy Pollard, AK5G; Sam Wilson, N5CPA
- 2) Minutes for April 2006 meeting were approved.
- 3) Secretary/Treasurer's Report was presented to the Board. The club has \$6,308.98 total assets, \$3,050.18 total liabilities, leaving \$3,258.80 as the current balance excluding the \$3,176.78 certificate of deposit.
- 4) Old Business:
  - a) Classes: The General class did not have enough people to make. There is a new Technician class announced in the May newsletter.
  - b) Newsletter Printing: It is costing BVARC about \$60 to print each batch of newsletters. Office Depot has been resistant to giving any discount. As they are the lowest printer found to date, this is the apparent rock bottom cost of newsletters.
  - c) By-Laws: Discussion on revising by-laws will begin again with the June board meeting. Lawler proposed moving the general meeting date so club members could attend the Texas DX Society meetings which are also on the second Tuesday. Animated discussion followed. The board decided to see if the Texas DX Society would consider moving their meeting date.
  - d) Warehouse space: BVARC still needs space to store club property. Brier offered some his warehouse space.
  - e) Field Day: The 2007 site will again be at the Richmond Fire Training Facility. The 2007 organizers will again be Chauvin, Brier, and Lawler. Those wishing to volunteer should contact said organizers.
  - f) 2007 Hamfest:
    - i) Location: Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Building C.
    - ii) Advertisement: Nothing in place yet except the BVARC Web Site.
    - iii) Web site space exposure (modest) will be given to vendors who pre-register.
  - g) General Meeting Schedule:
    - i) May: Saltgrass Network, how it works and its proper use.
    - ii) June: ARES (tentative)
    - iii) July: AMSAT (tentative)
    - iv) August: Ice Cream Social
  - h) BVARC Service Club Status: The ARRL Web Site lost out last entry of club information and application must be again entered.
- 5) New business:
  - a) New Member welcoming: It was pointed out that as a club we do nothing to make new members welcome. Thus, the board decided that new members should receive a welcoming package and renewing members should receive a QSL card as a thank you recognition.
  - b) Life member recognition: It was pointed out that the club does nothing to thank members who join/renew at the Life-Member level. The board is investigating appropriate thank you gifts.
  - c) IRS Paperwork: Pollard is submitting club 2005 tax paperwork even though the club is not required to do so.
- 6) Other Business:

Shiner Bash: Request for additional operators to work public service event.
- 7) Meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary Peter Sauermilch-KD5QPX

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**RESULTS OF THE May 9th  
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 9, 2006 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

**MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:**

Dennis Dietrich, W5DDD  
Jeff Fussell, KD5VGE  
Larry Jacobson, K5LJ  
John Moore, KK5NU  
George Ontko, KM5VP

A single examination element was administered during the evening to one applicant. A new Technician license was attained, with the total number of elements passed being 1. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

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

John T. Carpenter - {KE5INB} - 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.

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## Upcoming Hamfests

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

### **9-10 Jun 2006... West Gulf Division Convention (Ham-Com 2006)**

2000 Ease Spring Creek Parkway Plano Centre. Plano, TX

**Talk-In:** 147.18 (PL 107.2)

**Contact:** Barry A. Goldblatt, WA5KXX. Email: [wa5kxx@verizon.net](mailto:wa5kxx@verizon.net)

Phone: 972-596-4669 Fax: 972-596-6161

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

### **8 Jul 2006... Tidelands Amateur Radio Society**

Doyle Convention Center

2010 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Texas City, TX

**Talk-In:** 147.14 (PL 167.9)

**Contact:** Joe Wileman, AA5OP, Phone: 409-945-6794, Email: [aa5op@arrl.net](mailto:aa5op@arrl.net)

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## 2006 Club Officers:

President:

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX  
[n5vcx@worldnet.att.net](mailto:n5vcx@worldnet.att.net)

Vice President:

Allen Brier, N5XZ  
[n5xz@arrl.net](mailto:n5xz@arrl.net)

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:

Ross Lawler, W5HFF  
[w5hff@yahoo.com](mailto:w5hff@yahoo.com)

Recording Secretary:

Pete Sauermilch  
[kd5gpx@arrl.net](mailto:kd5gpx@arrl.net)

One Year Board Member:

Robert Polanski, KD5YVQ  
[polinski@swbell.net](mailto:polinski@swbell.net)

Two Year Board Member:

Sid Sherwood, N5ZKD  
[n5zkd@arrl.net](mailto:n5zkd@arrl.net)

Past President / At-large

Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM  
[k5cam@arrl.net](mailto:k5cam@arrl.net)

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## Club Happenings:

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### 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,  
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:

**June 16, 7:30p.m., PANDA GARDEN CHINESE RESTAURANT**  
**1043 Eldridge Road at Jesse Pirtle Blvd.**  
**In Sugar Land (1 mile +/- N. of US90A).**

**July 21, 7:30p.m., LAFAYETTE CAJUN SEAFOOD RESTAURANT**  
**10829 W. Bellfort at Wilcrest, in Houston.**

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## UPCOMING FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

**June – ARES + Field Day**

**July - AMSAT**

**August - Ice Cream Social**

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## Monday Night NET Updates

**At this time, the usual updates are not available. We will try to catch up on this next month.**

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## PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

**As this goes to press, this information is not available. Periodically check the BVARC website ([www.bvarc.org](http://www.bvarc.org)) for updates.**

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## FIELD DAY 2006

### June 24 – 25



**Feasting @ last year's Field Day**



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>  
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Claude Sessions, K5HFY, [k5hfy@arrl.net](mailto: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 281-342-3340 or [w5hff@yahoo.com](mailto:w5hff@yahoo.com) or the BVARC website at [www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc](http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc).

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**VOLUME 30, ISSUE 6**

**June, 2006**

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

**FIRST CLASS POSTAGE**

**General Membership Meeting – June 8, ARES  
Field Day – June 24-25**

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