



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

JULY 2006

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 7

JULY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The featured presentation for the July General Membership Meeting is entitled "HT and AL800 Antenna - An Excellent Portable Satellite Station." In a PowerPoint presentation, Allen Mattis, N5AFV, will discuss two examples where he has used an HT and AL800 on satellite DX operations - one a Caribbean cruise, and the other a trip to Copenhagen. He will then talk a little about AO-51 and the pass coming up at 9:20 PM. He will then go outside and try to work the satellite with the HT and AL800. Will Thomas, KE5CWC, will operate a receiving station like they did at the hamfest and everyone should be able to hear the satellite. Darrell, KC5JAR, and Scott, KD5FBA, plan to also be there to assist and help answer questions.

Also, FOX 26 news broadcasted a short piece on the BVARC Field Day. This will be shown at the meeting.

The meeting takes place at the Sugar Land Community Center (see P7) , at 7:30PM, Thursday, July 13.

FIELD DAY – QUITE A SUCCESS

Despite heavy rains earlier in the week, the weather cooperated for Field Day, the field was dry and everyone had a good time. See the next page for details and more pictures.



Chow Time
Priscilla Chauvin, chef, serving up the feast.

10/15/20M Beam Party →



BVARC FIELD DAY – 2006

Field Day was well attended and enjoyed by all. All regular bands from 2M through 80M were used. Modes included SSB, CW, FM, PSK-31, APRS & Satellite (see related article herein). As usual, Allen Brier, N5XZ, made more points than everyone else combined working primarily 20M CW. Food was continuously available, with a sandwich lunch provided mid-day on Saturday, and again on Sunday and of course the primary feed was Saturday evening with a savoring Bar-B-Que of chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs and sausage. About 40 members and guests enjoyed the meal. Visiting dignitaries included Ft. Bend County Sheriff Milton Wright and the Assistant Emergency Coordinator Ft. Bend County, Danny Jan.



The 20M SSB station at sunset.

This is a gorgeous shot; go to the BVARC website to see it in color.



Our perennial high scorer, N5XZ



N5XZ, beware of K5IZO

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club extends it's sincere **THANK YOU** to the Richmond Fire Department for allowing use of it's Fireman's Training Center for Field Day.

A few more pics of Field Day:



Up baby, up!!!



The two VHF stations

President's Corner & Public Service Events

As this issue of the newsletter goes to press, these articles were not available. Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, BVARC President, has been out of state for an extended amount of time. Look for these in the next newsletter and for event info on the BVARC website.

ARES PRESENTATION – VERY INFORMATIVE

The June General Membership Meeting featured a split presentation on ARES. Orin Snook, KB5F, the Fort Bend County ARES coordinator and Ken Mitchell, KD2KW, Harris county ARES district emergency coordinator were the presenters. We thank them for their time.



Ken Mitchell, KD2KW

BVARC License Classes – Extra Class – End of July

A 4 part class will be given for the Amateur Radio Extra Class license. These will take place on 4 consecutive Saturday mornings, beginning on July 29, from 9 – noon at St. Paul Presbyterian Church/School on the northeast corner of Bellaire and US59. We will need 4 confirmed participants for the class to “make.” There is no charge for the class, but you will need a copy of the ARRL Extra Class License Manual, 8th edition (now extended to 2008). This is available from several Houston locations including Electronics Parts Outlet, Houston Amateur Radio Supply, Fry’s and Brown Book Store for \$24.95 + \$2.06 = \$27.00. As certified instructors, Ross or John can order these from ARRL directly for \$18.71 postpaid, but they will need your cash at least 10 days ahead of time.

If you wish to attend, you MUST contact Ross at W5HFF@yahoo.com or John at K5IZO@yahoo.com. DO NOT just show up! If the class doesn’t “make,” those who confirmed will be advised several days ahead of the first scheduled class.

Houston Amateur Radio Supply

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

RESULTS OF THE June 11th B-VARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION by: John Moore, KK5NU

BVARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, June 11, 2006 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Dennis Dietrich, W5DDD; Larry Jacobson, K5LJ; John Moore, KK5NU

Seven examination elements were administered during the evening to six applicants. Two new Technician licenses were attained and one upgrade to Amateur Extra, with the total number of elements passed being 3. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 43%.

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

John A. Burns - {KE5JFD} - Technician
Michael H. Gillespie - {KE5JFC} - Technician
Charles W. VonCannon - KE5FIK - Amateur Extra

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

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of June 1st, 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 7:38 PM on June 1st, 2006 at the Brookstreet Bar-B_Q Restaurant, 1418 Highway 6 S., Sugar Land, 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; and Ron Dearman, KA5LWE.
- 2) Minutes for April 2006 meeting were approved as appearing in the newsletter.
- 3) Secretary/Treasurer's Report was presented to the Board. The club has \$4,415.80 total assets, \$789.77 total liabilities, leaving \$3,262.03 as the current balance excluding the \$3,200.48 (estimated) certificate of deposit.
- 4) Old Business:
 - a) Classes: There is a new Technician class announced in the June newsletter.
 - b) Life Members: Robert Polinski is attending to acquiring badges for our life members.
 - c) Newsletter Printing: John Chauvin has requested formally, in writing, to Office Depot that they print our newsletter for free in return for which we would recognize them in the newsletter.
 - d) By-Laws: Discussion on revising by-laws will begin again with the July board meeting.
 - e) Board has decided to create a welcome package for new members. At minimum it will contain a welcoming letter, map to eating events, and other club tid-bits.
 - f) Warehouse space: BVARC still needs space to store club property. Brier again offered some his warehouse space that will become available. Lawler, Allen, and Sauermilch will look for other free mini-warehouse space in the area.
 - g) Field Day: Lawler was authorized by the board, through a voice vote, to spend up to \$500 on food for event.
 - h) 2007 Hamfest:
 - i) Location: Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Building C.
 - ii) Advertisement: Nothing in place yet except the BVARC Web Site.
 - i) Web site space exposure (modest) will be given to vendors who pre-register.
 - j) General Meeting Schedule:
 - i) June: ARES (tentative)
 - ii) July: AMSAT (tentative)
 - iii) August: Ice Cream Social
- 5) Other Business:

Kdty Flatland: Request for additional operators to work public service event.
- 6) Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary Peter Sauermilch-KD5QPX

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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	2/6 - 32 - Cam, k5cam	4/3 - 23 - Cam, k5cam
12/19 - 22 - Sid, n5zkd	2/13 - 30 - Mike, n5vcx	4/17 - 17 - John, k5lkj
12/26 - 18 - Pete, kd5qpx	2/20 - 21 - Sid, n5zkd	5/1 - 23 - Cam, k5cam
1/2/2006 - 18 - Sid, n5zkd	2/27 - 23 - Pete, kd5qpx	5/8 - 17 - Mike, n5vcx
1/9 - 16 - Pete, kd5qpx	3/6 - 24 - Cam, k5cam	5/20 - 13 - Pete, kd5qpx
1/16 - 21 - Sid, n5zkd	3/13 - 22 - Pete, kd5qpx	6/5 - 12 - Cam, k5cam
1/23 - 28 - Pete, kd5qpx	3/20 - 19 - Sid, n5zkd	6/12 - 17 - Doug, kc5vyz
1/30 - 22 - Doug, kc5vyz	3/27 -24 - Pete, kd5qpx	6/19 - 17 - Sid, n5zkd

THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

By Joe Morgan, K5JWM

May 2006 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 otherB-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.

05/03/06__K5JWM, N5CPA, W5UHZ, WA5VRB, WO5O, W5RJA, KE5CUT, K5CEK, W5HFF, W5RH, KB5SIT, WB5VYR, KB5VTB,KB5LKE. Check-ins (14)

05/10/06__K5JWM, (details not available). Check-ins (16)

05/17/06__K5JWM, N5CPA, W5HFF, W5RJA, K5LJ, N0JAA, KB5SIT,WA5VRB, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KG5RQ, KE5EEE. Check-ins (12)

05/24/06__K5JWM, K5CEK, KE5SR, K5LBU, N5CPA, W5UHZ, W5RJA, W5RH, K5LJ, WA5VRB, N0JAA, KB5SIT, KG5KV, NM5K, KE5CUT. Check- ins (15)

Field Day Satellite Demo

The satellite operation and demo Will and I did at Field Day was a success. Carl, KA5MEI, watched us work the satellite passes, and asked us questions. He had tried unsuccessfully to work a satellite before but didn't hear the satellite. We explained about doppler shift and what he needed to do. Sunday afternoon Carl made three contacts on OSCAR 50. Besides Will and myself, Carl worked WD9EWK in Arizona.

Will and I feel like we really accomplished something by helping another amateur radio operator make his first satellite contacts. This year when you total up the Field Day success and failures, make sure you count Carl's first satellite contacts as one of the successes. This is another example of the things BVARC does to help amateur radio.

Allen N5AFV

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,
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:

July 21, 7:30p.m., LAFAYETTE CAJUN SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
10829 W. Bellfort at Wilcrest, in Houston.
August 18, 7:30p.m., TIO PEPE'S SPANISH RESTAURANT
5213 Cedar in Bellaire.

UPCOMING FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

July – Satellite talk and live QSO
August - Ice Cream Social

Upcoming Hamfests

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

8 Jul 2006... Tidelands Amateur Radio Society

Doyle Convention Center
2010 5th Avenue North, Texas City, TX

Talk-In: 147.14 (PL 167.9)

Contact: Joe Wileman, AA5OP, Phone: 409-945-6794,
Email: aa5op@arrl.net

<http://www.tidelands.org>

4-5 Aug 2006 Texas State Convention - Austin ARC & Texas VHF FM Society

Austin, TX

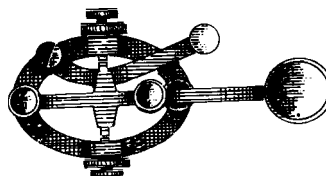
Red Lion Hotel (Now known as the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza)

[6121 North Interstate 35](http://www.austinsummerfest.org)

Talk-In: 146.34/.94

Contact: Joe Makeever, W5HS Phone: 512-345-0800,
Email: w5hs@arrl.net

<http://www.austinsummerfest.org>





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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. 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 or the BVARC website at www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc.

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July 2006

**BRAZOS VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 2997
SUGAR LAND, TX 77478-2997
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

General Membership Meeting – July 13, Satellite Communications

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