



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2007

VOLUME 31 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING DISCOVERING AMATEUR RADIO

Thursday, February 8, 2007

MEETING LOCATION CHANGE *** MEETING LOCATION CHANGE

For this meeting only, the meeting location has been changed to:

**Fort Bend County
Office of Emergency Management
307 Fort Street Richmond, Texas 77469**

The meeting time remains at 7:30 PM. If you have any prospective hams that you would like to introduce to amateur radio, this is the time to bring them.

For driving directions and a map, see more details inside this newsletter.

ANNUAL BANQUET – ENJOYED BY MANY

The annual banquet was held on Friday, January 12 at the Saltgrass Steakhouse, on the Southwest Freeway. About 45 people attended. As usual, everyone enjoyed themselves. Several new members attended. Awards were given.



Most of the attendees



Allen - N5XZ, Ross – W5HFF & John – K5IZO
Award for Field Day Coordination for 2 years

President's Corner

I hope everyone is ready for a hamfest because the 6th Annual Greater Houston Hamfest is just around the corner. The planning is hot and heavy on arranging speakers and organizing other functions for the hamfest. If you didn't know the hamfest has also been elevated at the South Texas Section convention so we are really having to put in a lot of effort and energy. All of this effort requires help from the club and we need your help. If you would like to help out with the hamfest, please contact a board member and let them know. There will be a final organization/coordination meeting in just a few weeks that everyone is invited to. I hope to everyone so we can make this the best hamfest yet!

Even with the hamfest around the corner, BVARC still has other function in the works. The February 8th general meeting is our annual Discovering Amateur Radio night. With the change in the Morse code requirements, this should open the doors to many more people that were reluctant to try amateur radio. To help open the doors to the hobby, the meeting on the 8th will be held at the Fort Bend county EOC amateur communication center. I hope everyone try's to bring someone new to the hobby and introduce them to all of the fun that it can be. I will be looking for a great turnout at the meeting and I hope to see everyone there.

With the weather starting to turn toward spring (this is just a line to lead up to the article. I know the weather has really be lousy) many pubic events will be coming up. The biggest one, the MS150, will be held on April 21 and 22nd this year with an estimate 13,000 riders. To handle a ride of this size, amateur radio is used as the primary communications. If you would like to help or just more information, please contact me at 713-771-4625 or 713-826-6917.

Last but not least the Annual Banquet was a great success. We had 41 people for dinner and not one complaint. I was impressed on how fast the food was brought out, especially from years past. This year Order of the Key went to John Chauvin, K5IZO, our club's newsletter editor and all around gopher. John has helped out on many different functions from Field day to the newsletter to the hamfest. I want to thank John for all of his hard work and the energy to keep prodding me. I also want to thank the club for the wonderful "PITA" award.

Hope to everyone at Discovering Amateur Radio night.

73,
N5VCX

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

GENERAL CLASS LICENSE CLASSES – Starting March 17.

Ross Lawler, W5HFF and John Chauvin, K5IZO will be teaching license classes again in 2007. The first will be a General Class License Class. With the recent changes in the licensing requirements and the license privileges, it is anticipated that many Technician Licensees will want to upgrade to a General Class License.

The classes will be held for 4 consecutive Saturdays, beginning March 17. Therefore, the final class will end the weekend before the April BVARC testing session. Depending on the final lesson plan, each class is expected to last about 3 – 3 ½ hours. The location is yet to be determined, but will be somewhere in the Southwest Freeway Corridor. More details will be given in the March newsletter. If you are interested, please contact Ross or John. Their contact info is given elsewhere in the newsletter.

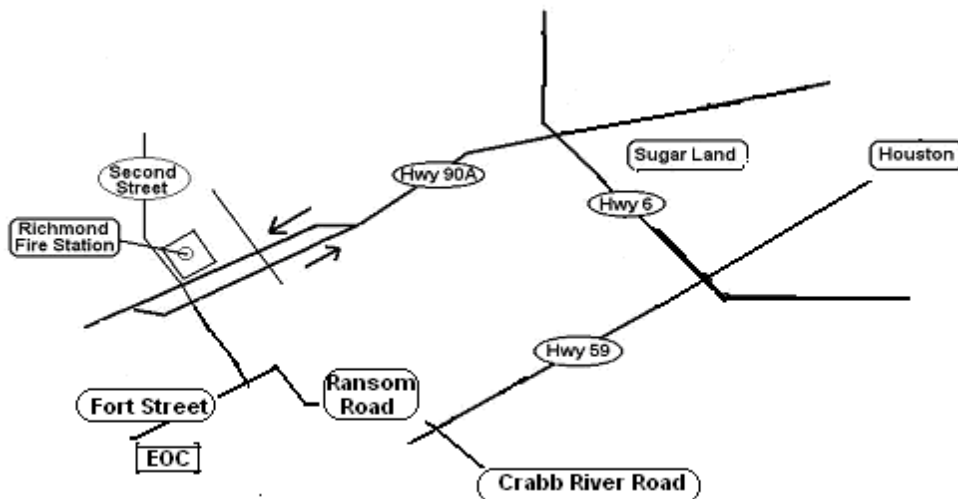
DIRECTIONS TO THE FEBRUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LOCATION:

Directions from Hwy 59

Exit off Crabb River Road from Hwy 59.
Take Ransom Road to Richmond.
Once you pass the Fort Bend county jail on the left,
Go to your 5th left and take a left.
You will go 3 blocks and the EOC is on the left.

Directions from Sugar Land/Hwy 90

Take Hwy 90 to Richmond.
As you come into Richmond, you will cross over the Brazos River bridge.
Go to the next traffic light and take a left.
Go to the 4th street which is Fort Street and take a right.
You will go 3 blocks and the EOC is on the left.



Monday Night NET Updates

Don't forget the Monday Night Public Service Net starts at **8 pm**, 145.47 (PL -123.0) 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:

8/7 - 29 - Cam, k5cam	10/2 - 22 - Cam, k5cam	11/27 - 19 - Cam, k5cam
8/14 - 20 - Bill, ke5cut	10/9 - 27 - Bill, ke5cut	12/4 - 22 - Cam, k5cam
8/21 - 22 - Bill, ke5cut	10/16 - 16 - Bill, ke5cut	12/11 - 35 - Bill, ws5h
8/28 - 21 - Pete, kd5qpx	10/23 - 21 - Pete, kd5qpx	12/18 - 22 - Sid, n5zkd
9/4 - 19 - Cam, k5cam	10/30 - 24 - Doug, kc5vyz	1/1 - 15 - Cam, k5cam
9/11 - 26 - Mike, k5vcx	11/6 - 31 - Cam, k5cam	1/8 - 22 - Bill, ws5h
9/18 - 16 - Bill, ke5cut	11/13 - 22 - Bill, ke5cut	1/15 - 18 - Bill, ws5h
9/25 - 18 - Pete, kd5qpx	11/20 - 14 - Bill, ke5cut	1/22 -22 - Pete, kd5qpx

BVARC Historical Vignettes – History in the Making

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

After looking through BVARC newsletters from 1978 to the present, I must tell you that the upcoming March 3, 2007 BVARC Greater Houston Hamfest, which will host the ARRL South Texas Section Convention, could be a pivotal event in the history of BVARC. This hamfest will probably be the most significant contribution BVARC has ever made to the amateur radio community of the greater Houston area. It will be history in the making, and I urge each and every member of BVARC to volunteer to help at the March 3rd hamfest. Contact either John Chauvin K5IZO (k5izo@yahoo.com) or Mike Hardwick N5VCX (n5vcx@worldnet.att.net) and volunteer to help at the hamfest. It takes many volunteers to put on a hamfest, and if every BVARC member helps out just a little the hamfest will be a great success.

The 2007 Greater Houston Hamfest will be held at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in Rosenberg. It has been many years since BVARC held an activity at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, but from 1979 through 1981, the club's ARRL Field Day was held there. BVARC was established in late 1977 to provide amateur radio emergency communications in the Fort Bend county area, and the early club leadership viewed Field Day as a very important activity for the club.

From the June 1979 Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Newsletter, Larry Levy WD5DRB editor:

FIELD DAY- 1979---SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JUNE 23rd & 24th- - FT. BEND COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

THE BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL PARTICIPATE IN FIELD DAY-1979. OUR OPERATING LOCATION WILL BE THE PUBLIC PICNIC AREA IMMEDIATELY OUTSIDE THE FAIRGROUND FENCE

In 1982, BVARC operated ARRL Field Day from the grassy area behind the Missouri City Fire Station. This event marked the beginning of a close relationship between Missouri City and BVARC that lasted almost a decade.

So, don't miss the opportunity to participate in and witness history in the making on March 3rd, 2007 at the Greater Houston Hamfest. And, while you are at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, pause a moment and recall that you are at the site where BVARC conducted its first Field Day operation 27 years ago.

6th Annual Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST

Hosting the

ARRL South Texas Section Convention

Saturday, March 3, 2007 - 8 am - 2 pm

Set-up Friday 4 pm to 10 pm and Saturday 7 am to 8 am

Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Rosenberg, Texas

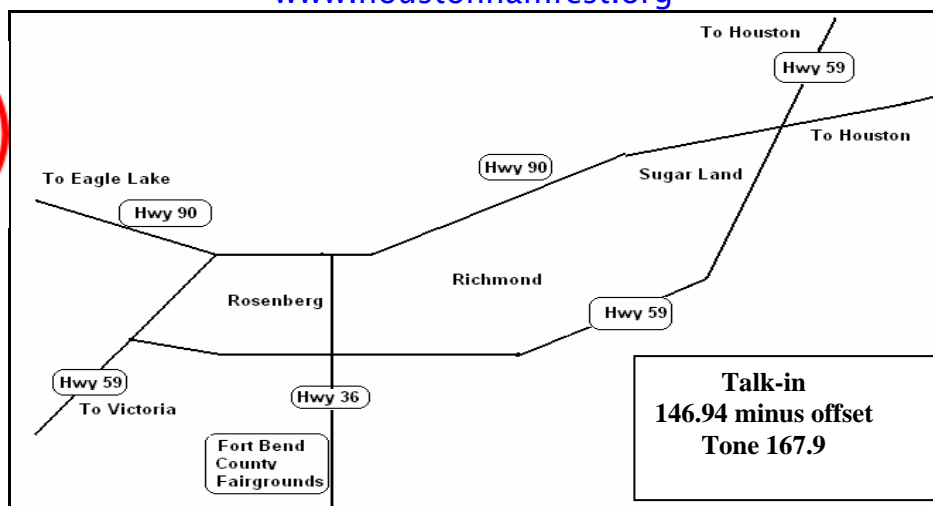
New Location! Over 18,000 sq feet of indoor exhibit space!
Overnight Camping Now Available! Special Motel Rates Available!

*Admission: \$5 per person - includes one raffle ticket
Children under 14 FREE!*

**Featured Speaker – Dr. David Woolweaver, K5RAV, ARRL West Gulf Division
Assistant Director**

- ★ **Tables:** Club members - 1 table free, \$5 each prepaid purchase / \$10 at the door – plus admission
Non members - \$5 each prepaid purchase / \$10 at the door - admission extra
Commercial - \$10 each prepaid purchase / \$15 at the door - includes one admission
- ★ **Tailgate:** \$5 per vehicle - includes one admission
- ★ **Programs:** Mini training seminars; APRS demonstrations and other featured speakers
- ★ **Raffles:** Tickets are one for \$1 and six for \$5
Grand Prize & Boat Anchor - drawing at 1 pm – need not be present to win grand prize
- ★ **Testing:** 9 am & 11 am – Sign up 30 minutes before testing – Bring photo ID & copy of license
- ★ **Displays:**
 - Amateur and Public Safety Emergency Communications Vehicles
 - Food Concession
 - Club donation table
 - Club surplus sales table
 - ARRL information
 - ARES information
- ★ **Contact:** Mike, N5VCX at 713-826-6917 or n5vcx@arrl.net for information about the Hamfest

www.houstonhamfest.org



KK5W
Club Call

**RESULTS OF THE January 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, January 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

Ten examination elements were administered during the evening to eight applicants. Four new Technician licenses were attained; two Element 3 General Class; and two Element 4 Extra Class were completed; with the total number of elements passed being 8. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 80%.

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

Katherine L. Ansley - {KE5LZM} - Technician
Joseph M. Chernow - KE5LUU - Element 3
Charles S. Cunningham - KF4OHI - Element 4
Robert W. Fisher - {KE5LZN} - Technician, Elements 3 & 4
Stirling R. Greer - {KE5LZO} - Technician
Damien R. Nelson - {KE5LZP} - 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

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Public Service events

The Big Chill Bike Ride

8:00 am Sunday Feb 4, 2007

Bicycle ride fund raiser in the Katy and Brookshire areas. Ten operators are needed for communications for this event.

Operators need at least a UHF hand held radio to volunteer. Operators will meet at 5:00 am at Denny's on Fry Road just north of Interstate 10 for maps and final instructions.

The Wild Wild West End Bike Ride

8:00 am Sunday Feb 18, 2007

Bicycle ride fund raiser in the Rosenberg and Fulshear areas. Twelve operators are needed for communications for this event.

Operators need at least a UHF hand held radio to volunteer. Operators will meet at 5:00 am at Denny's on Hwy 6 between Hwy 59 and US 90 for maps and final instructions.

The Bluebonnet Express

8:00 am Sunday March 25, 2007

Bicycle ride fund raiser in the Prairie View areas. Fifteen operators are needed for communications for this event.

Operators need at least a VHF mobile radio to volunteer. Operators will meet at 4:30 am at Denny's on FM 1960 just north of Hwy 290 for maps and final instructions.

Brookwood Spirit Rally Saturday

8:00 am April 14, 2007

Bicycle ride fund raiser in the Katy and Brookshire areas. Ten operators are needed for communications for this event.

Operators need at least a UHF hand held radio to volunteer. Operators will meet at 5:00 am at Denny's on Fry Road just north of Interstate 10 for maps and final instructions.

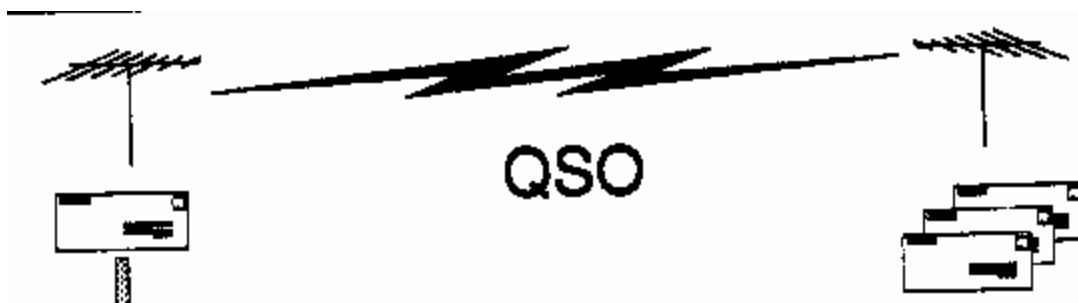
MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Tour

6:45 am Saturday and Sunday, April 21 – 22, 2007

Premier fund raising bicycle event for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. This is a 2 day bicycle ride from Houston to Austin that raised over \$11 million last year MS research. Over 100 radio operators are needed for this event over the 2 days. Positions include medical transportation support as well as command post operators.

If interested in any of the above events, please contact me at 713-771-4625 or 713-826-6917

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX



THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

By Joe Morgan, K5JWM

Dec 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 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.

12/06/06__K5JWM, N5CPA, K5CEK, KE5SR, KJ5SS, K5LJ, WS5H, WA5VRB, W5RH, W5UFK, W1DVM, K5HFY, N5DTT.check_ins (13)

12/13/06__N5CPA, KB5SIT, KE5SR, K5CEK, K5SPU, WS5H, KJ5SS, W5RH, WA5VRB, K5HFY
WB5SRN .check_ins (11)

12/20/06__K5JWM, N5CPA, K5CEK, KE5SR, KJ5SS, W5UHZ, K5LJ, WS5H, W5RH, KD7THJ, KB5SIT .check_ins (11)

12/27/06__K5JWM, K5CEK, KE5SR, K5LJ, WS5H, W5UHZ, KE5CDE, KE5CFF, KD7THJ, W5RH, KD7THJ, KD5OPX, W5UFK, N8NOV, WA5VRB, check_ins (14)

William "Bill" F. Randolph, KC5KGJ, SK

William F. Randolph, KC5KGJ, age 83, passed away Wednesday, December 13, 2006. He was born February 5, 1923, in Dallas. Bill graduated from Beverly Hills High School and earned a degree in accounting from Woodbury College, Los Angeles, CA .

He proudly served with the US Navy during WWII on the USS Black Hawk and was active with the annual ship reunions. He also worked as a ham radio operator with the Red Cross Disaster Relief and assisted with the MS150 Bike Tour in Houston and San Antonio as well as many other charity events. Bill was also a life member of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club in Sugar Land, Texas .

After retirement, he enjoyed taking trips to Alaska and drove the Alcan Highway, which begins in Dawson Creek, in northeastern British Columbia , winds northwesterly through Canada's Yukon and into the heartland of Alaska. He also was an outdoors enthusiast, as he loved boating, fishing and bicycling with his family.

2006 Club Officers:

President:

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
n5vcx@worldnet.att.net

Vice President:

Allen Brier, N5XZ
n5xz@arrl.net

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:

Sid Sherwood, N5ZKD
n5zkd@arrl.net

Recording Secretary:

Pete Sauermilch
kd5qpx@arrl.net

One Year Board Member:

Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ
polinski@swbell.net

Two Year Board Member:

Bill Stone, WS5H
dragwtow@wt.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.

Rag Chew Net

3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays
at 7:00 p.m.

Public Service Net

Monday night on 145.47 (PL 123.0) at
8:00 PM

UPCOMING FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

February - Discovering Amateur Radio night

March – Power Line Safety

Upcoming Hamfests

Hamfest info for the next few months. More information at:

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html#listing>

17 Feb 2007

Bastrop County ARC, Smithville, TX

Riverbend Park, [Highway 71 East](#)

<http://www.bastrophams.org>

Talk-In: 443.750 (PL 114.8); 145.35 (PL 114.8)

17 Feb, 2007

Pearland Amateur Radio Club Tailgate Sale

Pearland HS, South Parking Lot, Hwy 35 and Oiler Drive

8:00 – 1300. No fees

24 February, 2007

Orange Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.qsl.net/w5nd/>

March 3, 2007

GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST

Now hosting the

ARRL SOUTH TEXAS SECTION CONVENTION.

Featured Speaker: Dr. David Woolweaver –

ARRL West Gulf Division Assistant Director

Mark your calendars now.

BVARC has 3 times the indoor space than previous hamfests.

Go the www.houstonhamfest.org for details.

BVARC EATING SCHEDULE

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFASTS:

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

Otto's Bar-B-Que, 7:30 am, Fountains Shopping Center, SW Freeway.

THIRD FRIDAY DINNERS: -

For February, 7:30 PM, Luby's, West Airport & Murphy Road.



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

Today **BVARC** is truly a general interest amateur radio club 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. 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 145.47 (minus offset, PL 123 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 see the BVARC website: www.bvarc.org

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 2

February 2007

**BRAZOS VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 2997
SUGAR LAND, TX 77487-2997
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

**Discovering Amateur Radio – February 8
Note Meeting Location Change**

*If your mailing label is
highlighted in color, it's time
to renew your membership!*