



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

AUGUST 2008

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 8

BVARC AUGUST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA

7:30 PM, Thursday, August 14, 2008

Sugar Land Community Center, 226 Matlage Way, Sugar Land, Texas

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

This year, we have a different format. If you wish, you may bring your own homemade ice cream. You are NOT encouraged to bring any "store bought" ice cream as BVARC will provide the ice cream this time!

ENJOY!



FIELD DAY 2008 - Final Submission

Please see the final Field Day submission form in this issue. This is the feedback from the electronic submission. It is a little cryptic. Specifically where it says "Total Score" it should say "Total QSO Score" because our total is actually 5388 (the sum of the QSO Score and the Bonus Points). Congrats to all that participated in any way.



July General Membership Meeting

The featured presentation was a multi-faceted presentation. There was a Field Day 2008 slide show and report from Mike, N5VCX. Then there was an encore showing of Rick Hiller's (W5RH) video entitled "Solar Cycle 24 Update." The prime presentation was also presented by Rick entitled "The Joy of CW – Changing Your Mood about the Mode." John Chauvin, K5IZO, supported Rick's presentation with some further comments and citing some examples from a paper he had published several years ago in the FISTS Newsletter. Several people brought various keys for a total of about 25 keys. The presentation seemed to be well received by an attentive audience.



President's Message

Frosty is still overseas doing his African Safari thing.
Look for his column to return next month.



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



IARU HF World Championship Call: KL5DX

Operator(s): N5XZ

Station: KL7FH

Class: SO CW HP

QTH: KL7

Operating Time (hrs): 22

Summary:

Band CW Qs Ph Qs Zones HQ Mults

160:	0	0	0	0
80:	8	0	4	0
40:	115	0	16	3
20:	703	0	39	29
15:	17	0	7	6
10:	0	0	0	0

Total: 843 0 66 38 Total Score = 326,456

Club:

Comments:

Conditions in Alaska were not very good. It was not possible to sustain a very long run. I had a great time at KL7FH's new and improving contest station, though. And it's been a long time since I operated a contest full bore, even a 24 hour contest. A few glitches with the WriteLog software had me cursing, but otherwise things went well. I am happy to report that I worked a "Clean Sweep" of HQ stations!

Alaska locals worked: AL1G, KL7RA

Texas (close to home) worked: K5WA, K5NA, W9DX, NR5M, NX5M, N5DO, NO5W

Thanks for the Q's!!

73!

Allen Brier N5XZ / KL5DX

1515 Windloch Lane

Richmond, TX 77468-2533

281-342-1882

713-705-4801 (Cell)

n5xz@arrl.net

FIELD DAY SUBMITTAL

Here is a copy of the Field Day Submittal confirmation as received from ARRL.
Please note that the total score was (Bonus Points (1350) + QSO points (4038) for a final of 5388.

ARRL Field Day Entry Form

Page 1 of 3



2008 Field Day Entry Form

2008 Rules

Update to previous entry submitted on 2008-07-28 20:18:07 PDT

Datestamp: 2008-07-29 08:13:45 PDT
Confirmation: a8bea687b381e7cd

Use the following link if you want to update your Field Day entry:
[http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/fielddayupdate.php?
callused=KK5W&confirmation=a8bea687b381e7cd](http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/fielddayupdate.php?callused=KK5W&confirmation=a8bea687b381e7cd)

Thanks for using the web to submit your 2008 ARRL Field Day entry. Print this page to use as proof that you submitted your entry.

Call Used: **KK5W** GOTA Station Call: **(none)** ARRL/RAC Section: **STX** Class: **5A**

Participants: **40** Club/Group Name: **Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club**

Power Source(s): **Generator, Solar**

Power Multiplier: **2X**

Bonus Points:

Description	Points
100% Emergency power	500
Media Publicity	100
Information Booth	100
NTS message to ARRL SM/SEC	100
W1AW Field Day Message	100
Satellite QSO completed	100
Natural power QSOs completed	100
Site Visit by invited served agency official	100
Submitted via the Web	50
Educational activity	100
Total Bonus Points	1,350

Score Summary:

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total	
Total QSOs	702	1	613		
Total Points	1404	2	613	2019	Claimed Score = 4,038

Submitted by:

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
 6144 Carew
 Houston, Texas 77074
 E-mail: n5vcx@att.net

Comments:

(blank)

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)
160m						
80m	59	100			28	100
40m	122	100			247	100
20m	466	100			254	100
15m	55	100			1	100
10m					74	100
6m						
2m			1	25	8	2
1.25						
Other						
Satellite					1	50
GOTA						
Total	702		1		613	

Supporting Documentation Required

Based on your selections, the ARRL expects to receive supporting documentation:

- via e-mail to: fieldday@arrrl.org

Your entry was e-mailed to: fieldday@arrrl.org with a copy to n5vcx@att.net

*Version: 1.10
 Revision Date: July 1, 2008
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<http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/fielddayentry.php>

7/29/2008



Minutes of July, 2008 Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club:

There was no board meeting in July.

BVARC Historical Vignettes – Ice Cream Social

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

We all know that BVARC has a reputation of being as much an eating society as it is an amateur radio club, and the August Ice Cream Social is one of the club's most well-attended meetings. How did this popular event start and how long has BVARC had an Ice Cream Social?

The first BVARC Ice Cream Social was actually held in July and not August. The idea was conceived by Bill Todd-Brown N5MPN, who was program director at the time. The June 1990 B-VARC Bulletin contained an announcement about the upcoming July 12, 1990 general membership meeting.

From the June 1990 B-VARC Bulletin, Roland Torres KB5EQH Editor

JULY SOCIAL

by Bill Todd-Brown N5MPN

This is May, soon to be June. It is hot. It is humid. It is going to get hotter and more humid. The Dog Days of another Houston summer will soon be upon us.

By the time that the July 12 membership meeting rolls around, Field Day will have happened and all that will be left of it is memories, mosquito, tick and chigger bites. So what could be more fitting to relieve the itch, relive the memories and beat the heat than an Ice Cream Social in an air-conditioned hall!

Dick, N5OUT, will be hosting, coordinating and begging for help for the July soirée. For those of you that we were unable to bring in on the last feed (March Slumgullion blow-out), please, PLEASE, PLEASE call Dick at 530-0470 and volunteer to make and bring a gallon or two of home made ice cream. Dick needs at least 10 gallons and so far only 3 people have volunteered.

We are trying hard to bring the newer members and the less active members into participation in the satisfaction of being a contributing principal in the club's activities. So, if you have a freezer, notify Dick by phone and bring it full of your favorite flavor to the July 12th meeting.

Please, folks, not only is it a shame to see a grown man cry—it is even worse to see Dick attempt to curl into the fetal position when he is in utter frustration. So call Dick, see Dick run, see Spot run—just volunteer by calling 530-0470.

73, Bill N5MPN

The meeting had a lot of advance publicity on the club nets and by word of mouth over the MERA repeater. A total of 77 club members and guests attended the first Ice Cream Social setting a new record for the highest number of people attending a BVARC meeting. Ten gallons of ice cream were brought to the meeting and only 1 ½ quarts were left at the end. Most of the ice cream was homemade. Of course there were also ice cream toppings, cakes, cup cakes, brownies, cookies and other similar items to eat with the ice cream.

The program consisted of watching VCR tapes of a recent BVARC picnic and of a Houston area remote control model airplane meet. A number of club members brought remote-controlled model airplanes, boats and racing cars to show the attendees. It was an excellent meeting and it was clear to all that the Ice Cream Social should become an annual affair.

The Ice Cream Social was held in July for the next two years, and had a similar format. In 1993, the Ice Cream Social was held in August, but returned to a July date from 1994 through 1997. In 1998 the decision was made to move the Ice Cream Social to August. A number of club members said it was hotter in August than July, and that the Ice Cream Social is a good event to have in the hottest month of the year. The BVARC Ice Cream Social has been held at the August general membership meeting since that time.



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:

4/21 - 14 - Marni, ke5msd	5/25 - 16 - Pete, kd5qpx	6/30 - 21 - Sid, n5zkd
4/28 - 20 - Pete, kd5qdx	6/2 - 29 - Cam, k5cam	7/7 - 29 - Cam, k5cam
5/5 - 24 - Cam, k5cam	6/9 - 25 - Bill, ws5h	7/14 - 23 - Sid, n5zkd
5/12 - 32 - Bill, ws5h	6/16 - 25 - Bill, ws5h	7/21 - 25 - Bill, ws5h
5/19 - 13 - Marni, ke5msd	6/23 - 24 - Pete, kd5qpx	7/28 - 22 - Pete, kd5qpx



Coming Up

With summer coming to an end soon, fall public service events are up on the calendar. Working these events can be fun and rewarding as well as giving something to the community through amateur radio. Using your radio and license to help the community is one of the main reasons that amateur radio is around we as operators should try to support the hobby as much as we can.

Coming up in about 3 weeks is the Richmond Fire Department BBQ and Fund raiser. This event on August 23, will raise money for new classrooms and training facilities at the Fire Training Field where BVARC holds our annual field day. This year Richmond Fire Department has asked BVARC to help with the BBQ by providing people to staff tickets booths and help with parking. BVARC has used the fire training field for 7 years and has never been asked for any payment for the use of the facility. We, as club members, should come out to help Richmond Fire Department and support their function as they have helped us by providing the facility for no charge over the years.

The list below has all of the upcoming public service events along with the number of operators required, location of the event and contact information of the communications coordinator. If you have any questions and are not able to contact the event coordinator, please feel free to give me a call. Come on out and put your radio and license to a good use!

Richmond Fire Department BBQ

Saturday, August 23, 2008 2 pm to 9 pm Richmond Fire Training Field 10 operators needed
for parking and ticket booth Mike Hardwick, N5VCX 713-826-6917

Tour de Pink Bike Ride

Sunday, September 7, 2008 7 am to 3 pm Prairie View/Hempstead area 15 operators needed for communications
John Hall, N5JRH, 832-654-4758

Texas State Bicycle Races

Sunday, September 14, 2008 7 am to 3 pm Chappell Hill area 6 operators needed for communications
Scott Reeve, KT5SR, 281-217-8929

Lyondell Bike Around the Bay

Saturday & Saturday 6 am Sat to Anahauc to Galveston to
October 18 & 19, 2008 4 pm Sun Texas City to Baytown 20 operators needed for communications
Rick Broussard, N5KJN, 281-851-7987

Moonlight Ramble

Sunday, October 26, 2008 2 am to 5 am Downtown Houston 15 operators needed for communications
Jeff Walter, KE5FGA, 281-467-8595

Novemberfest Metric Century

Saturday, November 8, 2008 7 am to 4 pm San Felipe/Sealy area 15 operators needed for communications
Dave Scott, WD8RZA, 832-654-9583

Bike the Bend Bike Ride

Sunday, November 23, 2008 7 am to 4 pm Richmond/Wallis area 12 operators needed for communications
Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, 713-826-6917

Also don't forget the **20th Annual Monaville B-17/Big Bird RC Fly-In** on September 19th, 20th and 21st. Call 281-471-6762 for more information for this R/C plane extravaganza event that is great fun for the whole family.

Mike, N5VCX
713-826-6917



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Support your local HAM RADIO Club



RESULTS OF THE July 8th 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, July 8, 2008 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Dennis Dietrich, W5DDD
John Moore, KK5NU

Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM
George Ontko, KM5VP

Four examination elements were administered during the evening to four applicants. Two new Technician licenses were attained; and two upgrades to Amateur Extra class, with the total number of elements passed being 4. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

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

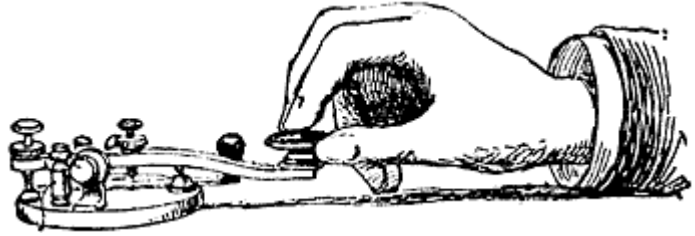
Ethan J. Bobys	- KE5VNY	- Technician
Robert A. Campbell	- KE5VNX	- Technician
Roy D. Mercer	- WB5WZM	- Amateur Extra
Robert I. Stroupe, Jr.	- WB5JWN	- Amateur Extra

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

The Texas Slow Net

Scott McMullen W5ESE



The Texas Slow Net has been a fixture on the CW portion of the 80 meter band for over a quarter-century, helping amateurs new to radiotelegraphy cultivate their operating and traffic handling skills. The net meets each evening at 7:45 p.m. on 3552 KHz.

CW net operation is a lot of fun, and can sometimes handle traffic even when poor propagation makes net operations difficult.

A sample of how CW net operations are conducted may help to demystify the process of beginning to participate in a CW net. The net control station (WB5NKC, in this example), begins calling for stations to check into the net (QNI) in this way:

NCS: **TSN TSN TSN DE WB5NKC QNI K**

If you would like to check into the net, you can signify your intent to do so by sending a single letter, your “sign”, which can be the first letter of your callsign suffix or of your name (“S” for “Scott”, in my case):

W5ESE: **S**

The net control station then indicates that he heard me and invites me to check in by repeating my “sign”:

NCS: **S**

I then check in, sending “good evening” (GE), and ‘QRU’ if I have no traffic:

W5ESE: **WB5NKC DE W5ESE GE ARLEY QRU K**

Alternatively, if I have one piece of traffic (QTC) for Houston, for example:

W5ESE: **WB5NKC DE W5ESE QTC HOUSTON 1 K**

NCS thanks me for checking in (TU), may give me a signal report (QSA and QRK), and asks me to wait [AS] for further instructions:

NCS: **W5ESE DE WB5NKC R TU SCOTT QSA 5 QRK 5 GUD SIGNAL PSE [AS]**

The net control station will then proceed to call for other stations to check in (QNI).

NCS may ask you at some point (getting your attention by sending your “sign”), to make a net call yourself, particularly if band conditions are poor, and NCS believes other stations may be better able to hear you. You acknowledge receipt (“R”), and proceed to make a few net calls for stations to check in (QNI):

NCS: **S**

W5ESE: **HR**

NCS: **NET CALL PSE K**

W5ESE: **R TSN TSN TSN DE W5ESE QNI K**

W5ESE: **TSN TSN TSN DE W5ESE QNI K**

After a few net calls, you then turn control of the net back to NCS (WB5NKC), who thanks you (TU), and asks you to please wait [AS].

W5ESE: **NKC**

NCS: **TU PSE [AS]**

NCS may then continue calling for more checkins, asking everyone to pay attention (QNC), listing your single piece of Houston traffic (QTC), and asking if anyone can relay or deliver it (QSP?).

NCS: **TSN TSN TSN QNC QTC HOUSTON 1 QSP? ANY TAKERS QNI K**

NCS continues the business of the net, usually sending a brief traffic handling training lesson. At the end of the net, the NCS will in turn thank each station that checked in (TU), indicate that the net has nothing further for them (QRU), dismiss them (QNX), and wish them “best regards” (73).

NCS: **S**

W5ESE: **HR**

NCS: **TU SCOTT FER HELP NW QRU QNX 73 K**

W5ESE: **TU ARLEY 73 DE W5ESE**

After dismissing each station, the NCS makes a final call for checkins, sends a postamble, and closes the net, releasing the frequency (QNF):

NCS: TSN TSN LAST CALL QNI K

NCS: THE TEXAS SLOW NET MEETS DAILY AT 745 PM CDT ON 3552 KHZ [BT] ALL STATIONS WELCOME QNF 73 [SK] DE WB5NKC

Participating in a slow net is a fun way to make friends, build code speed, and cultivate radiotelegraph operating proficiency. More information about the 'Texas Slow Net' in particular, and links to more information about CW net operating practices generally, is available on the web at:

http://www.geocities.com/scottmcmullen/Texas_Slow_Net.html

Scott McMullen, W5ESE, is a member of the Austin Amateur Radio Club and the Austin QRP Club, and participates regularly in the Texas CW and Slow Nets.

The telegraph key image is used with permission courtesy of FCIT



THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

Late June through Mid July 2008 check-ins

3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00pm, John Whiteman, K5LKJ, Net Coordinator

06/25/08, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, K5NDB, W5RH, N5CPA, KC5JAR, K5LJ, W5RCP (Putnam), WS5H, N5AFV, K5LBU, W5FZ, KF5BOB, WA5FMK, K5JWM. (15 Check Ins)

07/02/08, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, N5AFV, N5CPA, WB5VWB, K5NDB, WA5FMK, KC5JAR, WS5H, W5UHZ (Beaumont), K5KJS, K5LOT, K5JWM, KG5RQ, W5RH, KE5NPZ.
(16 Check Ins)

07/09/08, K5LKJ (NCS), W5RJA (Schulenburg), K5NDB, N5CPA, K5CEK, N5AFV, KC5JAR, WS5H, K5IZO, WB5PNL (Beach City), K5LOT, KA5MEI, WA5FMK, AD5NL (Galveston), KG5RQ. (15 Check Ins)

07/16/08, K5LKJ (NCS), KJ5SS, N5CPA, W5UHZ (Beaumont), N8NOV, K5LJ, K5NDB, W5RJA (Schulenburg), K5LOT, WB5VWB, WB5PNL (Beach City), WA5FMK, K5HFY, WS5H, KE5KFD, WA5CYI, KG5RQ. (17 Check Ins)

07/16/08, K5LKJ (NCS), KJ5SS, K5CEK, N5CPA, K5NDB, W5RJA (Schulenburg), WA5CYI, K5LOT, KG5RQ, NG1H (McAllen) (tel), K5SEE, KC5JAR, N5AFV, KD5BOP, WA5FMK.
(15 Check Ins)

Thanks.

Regards.

K5LKJ
John C. Whiteman

jw@heatingtapes.com

2008 Club Officers:

President:

Charles "Frosty" Frost, K5LBU
frosty1@pdq.net

Vice President:

Rick Hiller
rhiller@sdicgm.com

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:

Sid Sherwood, N5ZKD
n5zkd@arri.net

Recording Secretary:

Pete Sauermilch
kd5qpx@arri.net

Board Member:

Arnold Knoche
jakadaok@aol.com

Board Member:

Bill Stone, W5SH
dragntow@wt.net

At Large Board Member

(Past President):
Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
n5vcx@worldnet.att.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,
Fuddruckers, just South of the Fountains
Shopping Center on US 59 outbound..

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
jwm@hal-pc.org

Eating Schedule

Saturday morning breakfasts
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

BVARC EATING SCHEDULE

BVARC EATING SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST:

59 DINER, 7:30a.m., SW Freeway outbound service road, near Kirkwood.
NEW YORK COFFEE & BAGEL SHOP, 7:30a.m., 9720 Hillcroft.

THIRD FRIDAY DINNER: August 15, 2008, 7:00p.m. (Note time change)

LUBY'S CAFETERIA, 10575 W. Airport Blvd. at Murphy Road.

OTHER HAM GROUPS:

WEDNESDAYS – WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH

LUBY'S CAFETERIA, 10:30a.m., Bellaire Blvd. ½ blk. E. of Hillcroft.

WEDNESDAYS – AMSAT & QRP GROUP

PAPPAS BARBECUE, 11:30A.M., SW Corner Westheimer & Gessner.

UPCOMING FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

August – Ice Cream Social and Ham Radio videos

Sept -- Digital Delights (PSK and other digital modes)

Oct -- The History of Ham Radio Looking Through Our Favorite
Magazines

Nov – Chili Supper, Elections and Ham Radio video night

December – Home Brew Night (with prizes)

Hamfests

(within 200 miles of Houston)

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

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

13 Sep 2008

Swampfest 2008

Southwest Louisiana Amateur Repeater Club

Habibi Temple\

2928 Pack Road

Lake Charles, LA

Talk-In: 146.730 (pl off)

<http://www.swlarclub.bravehost.com>

4 Oct 2008

HamEXPO

Temple Amateur Radio Club

Belton, TX

Bell County Expo Center

Talk-In: 147.34 & 442.775 (both PL 100)

<http://www.beltonhamexpo.org>



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 7:00 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 32, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2008

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

**Ice Cream Social (@ General Membership meeting),
Thursday, August 14, 2008, 7:30 PM.**

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