



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2009

VOLUME 33 ISSUE 2

BVARC February General Membership Meeting THIS MONTH ONLY – THE THIRD THURSDAY – FEB. 19

The slide show by W5RH of "BVARC 2008 -- A Year in Review"

A Short technical talk by Dave Barber, K5NDB: "Turning post hurricane oooohhhs, into post hurricane aaaahhhs!- The Proper Care and Feeding of Portable Generators"

The Annual Awards, normally given out at the banquet, will be presented.



Annual Banquet - Report

The 2009 BVARC banquet was a huge success with 48 guests in attendance this year. Everyone had a great time and with three servers and more support staff this year, no problems were reported with the food or service. Frosty, K5LBU, club president thanked everyone for attending and talked about the upcoming Greater Houston Hamfest. Annual awards were postponed to the February general meeting due to an ordering delay. Award information will be in the March newsletter.



More photos inside



President's Message

Greetings Fellow BVARC members,

As I at last sit down to write this latest epistle for the February news letter I had to force my self to get up from in front of the radio as 6 meters is just going like 20 meters and has all day long.

Some have even worked down into South and Central America. I was not at the radio when that all happened was doing something else like eating Lunch. I did work into the West Coast. So if you have a rig that will cover 6 meters you might want to turn the band switch to 6 and take a tune across the dial. In fact give a CQ once in awhile to see if anyone else is there. Or go to the DX cluster web site and see what is being worked and by who and where because one never knows what just might be there for you to work.

I would like to thank everyone who came out to the Banquet it was a great turnout. Someone counted 50 warm bodies there. Do to the goof on my part we were not able to give out the awards so that means that you will need to be at the meeting on the 19th YES the 19th to see who the winners are.

Time is moving on down the track as John has advised us that the Hamfest will Soon be upon us and the leaders are still looking for folks to help out in lots of places. So even helping for 1 hour would give someone else time to take a break and get to see what is there they might like to buy or go to a talk or go to the potty or get something to eat. So come on and help.

It is great to see so many turn out for breakfast each Saturday if you have not visited with us come on the main group meet at the 59 Dinner on 59 at 7AM each Saturday. We just visit and talk about all sorts of things. Not always Radio so come join us.

Well 6 meters is still calling so CU at the Meeting on the 3rd Thursday this month.

Frosty
K5LBU



BVARC GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST

Saturday, March 7

For details, go to: www.houstonhamfest.org

Mark your calendars now!

Can you volunteer a few hours before and during the event to help the greater Houston amateur radio community? If so, contact any BVARC board member.



**This year's BVARC Greater Houston Hamfest Grand Prize
Yaesu FT-450 AT**

Public Service Events Coming Up

Saturday, February 7, 2009

Puddle for the Ducks

www.tx.ducks.org

Twelve operators needed for the event. Operators meet at 5 am at Dennys on Fry Road north of Interstate 10. Event and talk-in frequency will be on the 444.075 repeater (plus offset, 103.5 tone). Hand held radios are usable but mobile radios are preferred. Contact Mike, N5VCX, at 713-826-6917 to volunteer or for more information.

Saturday, February 14, 2009

Pedaling the Prairie

www.pedalingtheprairie.org

Twelve operators needed for the event. Operators meet at 5 am at Dennys on Fry Road north of Interstate 10. Event and talk-in frequency will be on the 444.075 repeater (plus offset, 103.5 tone). Hand held radios are usable but mobile radios are preferred. Contact Mike, N5VCX, at 713-826-6917 to volunteer or for more information.

Saturday, March 7, 2009

Gator Ride

www.gatorride.org

Fifteen operators needed for the event. Contact Mike, N5VCX, at 713-826-6917 to volunteer or for more information.

Sunday, March 08, 2009

The Continental Airlines Cycling Classic

www.cocyclingclassic.com

Ten operators needed for the event. Contact Mike, N5VCX, at 713-826-6917 to volunteer or for more information.

Saturday, March 14, 2009

B-geO Magnolia Miles

www.magnoliamiles.org

Twelve operators needed for the event. Operators meet at 4:30 am at Dennys in Tomball on FM2920 west of Hwy 290. Event and talk-in frequency will be on the 146.720 repeater (minus offset, 123.0 tone). Mobile radios are needed required for the event. Contact Mike, N5VCX, at 713-826-6917 to volunteer or for more information.

Sunday, March 29, 2009

Bluebonnet Express

www.northwestcyclingclub.com

Twelve operators needed for the event. Operators meet at 4:30 am at Dennys on FM1960 north of Hwy 290 10. Event and talk-in frequency will be on the 444.075 repeater (plus offset, 103.5 tone). Mobile radios are needed required for the event. Contact Mike, N5VCX, at 713-826-6917 to volunteer or for more information.

Saturday & Sunday, April 18 & 19, 2009

BP MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Tour

www.ms150.org

Over 100 operators are needed for this event. Positions available at breakpoints (contact your ARES EC) and mobile positions for entire weekend. For more information please contact Mike, N5VCX, at 713-826-6917 for more information or to volunteer.

RESULTS OF THE January 13th
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 13, 2009 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

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

Five examination elements were administered during the evening to five applicants. Four new Technician class licenses were attained; with the total number of elements passed being 4. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 80%.

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

Michael R. Brown	{KE5YUI}	Technician
Jerry L. Hyatt	{KE5YUJ}	Technician
Arthur M. Walton	{KE5YUK} -	Technician
Pete P. Zaharatos	{KE5YUL} -	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



THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

January check-ins

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

12/31/08, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, KJ5SS, K5LBU, N5CPA, K5ADA, WS5H, WS5H/KE5NDN, K5LOT, K5NDB, W5UHZ (Beaumont), WS5H/KE5WQU, W5RH, W5RJA (Schulenburg), W5TOM, KE5CDE (Belton), KC9LKW (English, IN), W1ABT (Tallahassee, FL) (18 Check-Ins)

01/07/09, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, KJ5SS, W5TOM, WS5H, K5NDB, K5LJ, AF5T, AA5OA, K5KJX, WA5CYI, K5LOT, K5HFF, W5HFF, W5RH, WD4KTF, KD7THJ. (17 Check-Ins)

01/14/09, K5LKJ (NCS), N5CPA, AF5T, WS5H, K5IZO, K5LOT, W5RJA (Schulenburg), AA5OA, K5LJ, KC5JAR, K5NDB, K5LBU, WA5CYI, WA5JMC, W5TOM, KG4QZV (Rome, GA) (16 Check-Ins)

01/21/09, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, KJ5SS, K5LBU, N5CPA, W5HFF, K5NDB, WS5H, , K5LJ, WA5CYI, W5RH, W5RCP (Putnam), W5RJA (Schulenburg), AA5OA, W5TOM, KE5MBN (Midland), AF5T. (17 Check-Ins)

(T) = telephone check-in

Thanks.

Regards.

K5LKJ

John C. Whiteman

Houston Amateur Radio Supply

181 Cypresswood Drive

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<http://texasparadise.com/hars/>

George DiLetto KD0RW



BVARC Historical Vignettes – The Warm-Up Series Hot Air Balloon Episode by Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

For many years BVARC has provided communications for the Marathon Warm-Up Series. The Warm-Up Series consists of an October 20K run, a November 25K run, and a December 30K run all held to prepare runners for the January Houston Marathon. The first year BVARC provided communications for the 25K Warm-Up Series Run was 1987, and it was held at Cinco Ranch. At that time Cinco Ranch was in the initial stages of development and the developers hoped that by allowing the 25K run to be held at Cinco Ranch Houston area runners would become aware of the new development.

Because the Warm-Up Series courses were quite long, it took a larger number of volunteers to provide communications. In those days BVARC needed twelve to twenty volunteers to work a Marathon Warm-Up Series run. Runners who ran all three of the Warm-Up Series Runs were awarded a special finisher mug, and in order to encourage amateur radio operators to volunteer to work the Warm-Up Series sponsors agreed to also award the finishers mugs to amateur radio operators who worked all three of the runs.

In the mid to late 1980s BVARC had a number of teenagers active in the club. For the most part the parents of these teenagers were also BVARC members and public service events provided a family activity. The teenagers who worked these public service events bonded with each other, and BVARC leadership took pride in these younger members.

It was one of these younger members, Carl Albrecht, Jr, KB5KJT, who provided the most important communications at the 1991 Cinco Ranch 25K. Carl, KB5KJT, was a high school student and this was the third year he had worked the Cinco Ranch 25K. Because he was a “seasoned” public service event operator, his father, Carl Albrecht, Sr, AA5JW, agreed that that Carl, KB5KJT, could be assigned to his own position along the course. Carl, KB5KJT, was assigned to a position along Peek Road where he could report when the lead runner passed and watch for runners who needed medical assistance. The nearest amateur radio operator to Carl, KB5KJT, was one-half mile away.

The start of the race was delayed several minutes by heavy fog because the fog prevented race officials from ascertaining if the course was closed to vehicular traffic. One of the most important criteria runners use for ranking races is that they start on time and the race officials felt the pressure of having a late start. The word was given that it was two minutes to start time when Carl, KB5KJT, called net control. He calmly reported that a hot air balloon had just landed in the middle of Peek Road and was blocking the course. The balloon crew told him they could have the balloon moved to the side of the road in five minutes. Net control immediately advised the race director that the start should be delayed an additional five minutes and explained that a hot air balloon was blocking the course approximately one mile from the start line. Race officials delayed the start by another five minutes.

The following week BVARC received a letter from the race sponsors that stated “When a BVARC person said that in his opinion the balloon would be gone in five minutes, we knew it would be gone”. What a wonderful expression of confidence in both BVARC and in Carl, KB5KJT. This episode was the first time anyone in the Houston running community had ever heard of a race course being blocked by a hot air balloon.

Like many young people his age, after graduating from high school Carl, KB5KJT, went off to college. He would occasionally check into the BVARC Rag Chew Net on Wednesday evenings from the amateur radio club station at his university. Even though he no longer lived in Houston, Carl kept in touch with the friends he made as a BVARC member while working public service events.

Marathon Warm-Up Series

7733 Moline
Houston, Texas 77087
713-649-6832

November 11, 1991

Al Mattis, President
Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
5314 Wigton
Houston, Texas 77096

Dear Al:

We have just completed another successful 25km at Cinco Ranch, and BVARC again played a large part. Having a balloon down on the course is certainly a first for any race anywhere, I'm sure. With your guys on sight appraising the situation, all of us at the start line felt a better sense of security. When a BVARC person said that in his opinion the balloon would be gone in five minutes, we knew it would be gone (otherwise, he would not have said so). That was a situation no one could (or would) have predicted, and we were able to handle it efficiently because we had radio people on the course. Your professionalism is always very much appreciated.

Please extend to all your volunteers our sincere appreciation for their continued dedication to the Marathon Warm-Up Series. We would certainly not want to attempt it without you ever again.

Sincerely,



Mary Anne McBrayer
Houston Masters Sports Association



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:

10/13 - 26 - Bill, ws5h

10/20 - 0 - No NC

10/27 - 24 - Pete, kd5qpx

11/3 - 22 - Cam, k5cam

11/10 - 27 - Bill, ws5h

11/17 - 19 - Mike, n5vcx

11/24 - 18 - Syd, n5zkd

12/1 - 20 - Cam, k5cam

12/8 - 26 - Bill, ws5h

12/15 - 27 - Sid, n5zkd

12/22 20 - Pete, kd5qpx

12/29 19 - John, k5lkj

1/5 - 28 - Cam, k5cam

1/12 - 24 - Bill, ws5h

1/19 - 18 - Sid, n5zkd

Control Ops needed for the Monday Night Net – n5zkd@arrl.net



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Houston ECHO Society



AMATEUR RADIO CLASSES

Houston ECHO Society is again offering Ham Radio Classes. Now is the time to take a Ham Radio Class and **FINALY** get your license or **FINALY** get that upgrade to General Class! Come and work through the material in a classroom setting where you can get your questions answered first hand and learn the ins and outs of radio communications.

All Classes are FREE of charge to attend.

These classes are a cooperative effort between the Greater Houston Area Chapter of the American Red Cross or Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Their assistance is greatly appreciated in offering classroom space for these classes.

Technician Class Instruction (Level 1 License)

Saturdays, February 21 & 28, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (2 class sessions - MUST attend both sessions)

CLASS LOCATION - Houston Red Cross Main Chapter Building - 2700 s.w. Freeway, Houston, TX 77019 -- [MAP](#)

CLASS #301 - Textbook used: [ARRL Ham Radio License Manual](#). Class will cover information needed to pass the Technician Class License Exam. All participants will need to have this textbook. Textbooks will be made available at the first class session for \$20. Arrangements can be made to pickup the book prior to the first class meeting. Loaner books will also be made available for the duration of the class if you do not wish to purchase the book. This class does NOT include the VE Exam session to take the Licensing Exam but information on the many local Exam Sessions will be made available towards the end of the class. TO REGISTER: E-mail Charlie Matthew - N0XFD at n0xfd@yahoo.com with "Ham Class Reg" in the subject line. In the e-mail please provide your Name, Phone #, e-mail address, and class # "Class#301". You may alternately call Charlie Matthew - N0XFD at 713-498-9802 and leave the same information by phone. **Class is FREE** - though there is a suggested \$10 donation to the Houston ECHO Society.

Technician Class Instruction (Level 1 License)

Monday & Wednesday, February 23 - March 4, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (4 class sessions - MUST attend all sessions)

CLASS LOCATION - Houston Transtar Building - 6922 Old Katy Road, Houston, TX 77024 -- [MAP](#)

CLASS #401 - Textbook used: [ARRL Ham Radio License Manual](#). Class will cover information needed to pass the Technician Class License Exam. All participants will need to have this textbook. Textbooks will be made available at the first class session for \$20. Arrangements can be made to pickup the book prior to the first class meeting. Loaner books will also be made available for the duration of the class if you do not wish to purchase the book. This class does NOT include the VE Exam session to take the Licensing Exam but information on the many local Exam Sessions will be made available towards the end of the class. TO REGISTER: E-mail Charlie Matthew - N0XFD at n0xfd@yahoo.com with "Ham Class Reg" in the subject line. In the e-mail please provide your Name, Phone #, e-mail address, and class # "Class#401". You may alternately call Charlie Matthew - N0XFD at 713-498-9802 and leave the same information by phone. **Class is FREE** - though there is a suggested \$10 donation to the Houston ECHO Society.

MORE CLASSES ON PAGE 2

Continued on next page.

General Class Instruction (Level 2 License)

Tuesday & Thursday, February 10 - March 5, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (8 class sessions - MUST attend all sessions)

CLASS LOCATION - Houston Transtar Building - 8922 Old Katy Road, Houston, TX 77024 -- [MAP](#)

PREREQUISITE - Hold current Technician License - or recently passed your Technician Exam

CLASS #402 - Textbook used: [ARRL General Class License Manual](#). Class will cover information needed to pass the General Class License Exam. All participants will need to have this textbook. Textbooks will be made available at the first class session for \$20. Arrangements can be made to pickup the book prior to the first class meeting. Loaner books will also be made available for the duration of the class if you do not wish to purchase the book. This class does NOT include the VE Exam session to take the Licensing Exam but information on the many local Exam Sessions will be made available towards the end of the class. TO REGISTER: E-mail Charlie Matthew - NOXFD at n0xfd@yahoo.com with "Ham Class Reg" in the subject line. In the e-mail please provide your Name, Phone #, e-mail address, and class # "Class#402". You may alternately call Charlie Matthew - NOXFD at 713-498-9802 and leave the same information by phone. Class is **FREE** - though there is a suggested \$10 donation to the Houston ECHO Society.

General Class Instruction (Level 2 License)

Monday & Wednesday, March 16 - April 6, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (8 class sessions - MUST attend all sessions)

CLASS LOCATION - Houston Red Cross Main Chapter Building - 2700 s.w. Freeway, Houston, TX 77019 -- [MAP](#)

PREREQUISITE - Hold current Technician License - or recently passed your Technician Exam

CLASS #302 - Textbook used: [ARRL General Class License Manual](#). Class will cover information needed to pass the General Class License Exam. All participants will need to have this textbook. Textbooks will be made available at the first class session for \$20. Arrangements can be made to pickup the book prior to the first class meeting. Loaner books will also be made available for the duration of the class if you do not wish to purchase the book. This class does NOT include the VE Exam session to take the Licensing Exam but information on the many local Exam Sessions will be made available towards the end of the class. TO REGISTER: E-mail Charlie Matthew - NOXFD at n0xfd@yahoo.com with "Ham Class Reg" in the subject line. In the e-mail please provide your Name, Phone #, e-mail address, and class # "Class#302". You may alternately call Charlie Matthew - NOXFD at 713-498-9802 and leave the same information by phone. Class is **FREE** - though there is a suggested \$10 donation to the Houston ECHO Society.

Questions regarding the classes should be directed to:

Charlie Matthew NOXFD – n0xfd@yahoo.com -or- 713-498-9802

Volunteer Instructors interested in assisting with these or future ECHO Ham Radio Classes are asked to contact Charlie Matthew NOXFD

The Houston ECHO Society is a general interest amateur (ham) radio club serving greater Houston Texas and is a ARRL Special Services Club. ECHO stands for Emergency Communications by Ham Operators.

ECHO exists to provide emergency communications to various public service agencies in the greater Houston area. In order to fulfill that objective the ECHO society owns and operates repeaters that may be used in times of emergencies as well as providing a pool of trained radio operators to assist in that effort.

Because amateur radio is such a broad hobby ECHO employs the use of special interest groups, or SIG's, so that members and non-members alike may participate in common interest projects and aspects of amateur radio. ECHO offers classes, test sessions, operates repeaters, and participates in various contests such as the ARRL field day.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend our meetings, membership is not required to attend a meeting. If you would like to become a member of the Society, membership dues are only \$20 per calendar year. Please see the club treasurer at a club meeting. Additional information on ECHO and meeting times can be found on our website:

<http://www.w5eco.org>



**Board of Directors minutes
Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club:**

There was no board meeting in January.

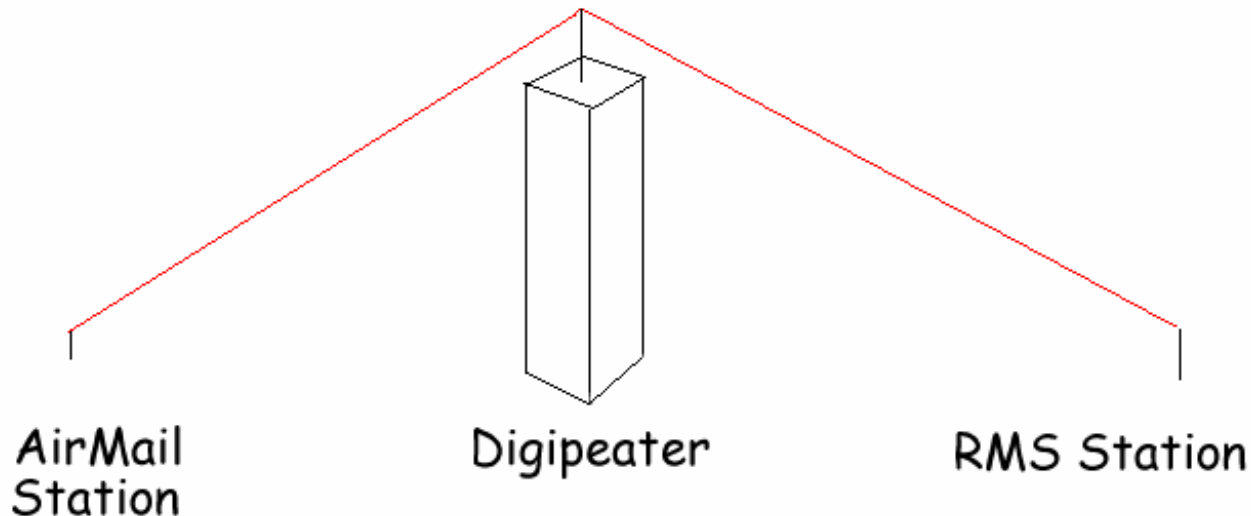


Digipeaters

John Denison KD5YOU

Amateur radio in today's world has many different methods, modes, and ideas. Packet radio use has been increasing in emergency communications as well as normal daily amateur radio communications. One application that is used in EMCOMM is AirMail. This radio email application is used to provide email to disaster stricken areas or any area that does not have working internet service. Stations running AirMail can connect either directly to another AirMail station or to an RMS station located in an area with working internet service. The RMS station is a gateway between amateur radio and the internet. When an AirMail station is not able to connect to an RMS station directly due to signal loss, not enough power, etc, then AirMail station relays packets through a type of digital repeater known as a digipeater.

A digipeater simply listens to packets that are directed to it, and rebroadcasts the packet back out to an RMS station. Unlike voice repeaters which rebroadcast simultaneously using different receive and transmit frequencies, a digipeater receives a digital packet and then transmits the same digital packet out on the same frequency but not simultaneously. Digipeaters usually follow the same logic as voice repeaters by being installed at high elevations on towers or tall buildings. This gives the digipeater wide area coverage.



The benefit of using a digipeater is that it allows AirMail stations with limited range to reach distant RMS stations. The drawback of digipeaters is that it takes at least twice as long to send messages than with a direct connection, and this causes the frequency in use to be tied up for much longer time. Digipeating does not have to be limited to a dedicated digipeat station. Any station using a Kantronics KPC3+ or similar TNC (Terminal Node Controller) has the capability to digipeat. Digipeating is used in additional applications including APRS.

Normally digipeating is enabled by default on a Kantronics KPC3+. To enable digipeating on a KPC3+, connect to the KPC3+ using hyperterminal or similar terminal program. At the prompt, type DIGI ON. Most digi stations use callsign-5 as the digi callsign (i.e. N5DCC-5, KK5W-5). To set an ALIAS for digipeating, type MYALIAS *name* (*name* is your alias). Some local digipeater aliases include KK5W, ALVIN, HAMS, and FTBEND.

In AirMail, the digipeater callsign or alias is specified in the Packet Client window along with the RMS station callsign. An example would be N5DCC-10 KK5W or KD5HCD-10 KN5A-5.

Here are some digipeater and packet web site links:

APRS - <http://wa8lmf.net/DigiPaths/>

Packet radio - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Packet_radio

Winlink 2000 - <http://www.winlink.org/>

Delayed slide show to be shown at the February meeting.

My sincere apologies to the club and the attendees of the annual banquet. I had put together a slide show of various pictures of the 2008 BVARC activities and meetings that Cam and others had taken, and was going to show it at the banquet. However, I had gone to W3 land to visit family, earlier in the week, and got hung up with some last minute mandatory business with my folks and did not make the early morning plane. I will attempt to show this 10 minute slide show at the February meeting; or that's the plan, as of now. So, please come to the February meeting on the **THIRD** Thursday of February – the 19th and see the show.
Rick – W5RH



Here are more banquet photos:



Meeting nights for the first half of 2009

Because Sugar Land will only reserve the Community Center for 6 months at a time, here is a list of the meeting nights through June. Note January there is no General Membership Meeting as we have the Annual Banquet in it's stead. Note that February had to be scheduled on the third Thursday. The others are on the second Thursday as usual.

19th Feb 3rd Thursday
12th March 2nd Thursday
9th April 2nd Thursday
14th May 2nd Thursday
11th June 2nd Thursday.

2009 Club Officers:

President:

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

Vice President: (Interim until voted)

Rick Hiller, W5RH
rhiller@sdicgm.com

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:

Arnold Knoche, K5ADA
jakadaok@aol.com

Recording Secretary:

Pete Sauermilch
kd5qpx@arrl.net

Board Member:

David Barber, K5NDB
d_barber@att.net

Board Member:

Arnold Knoche, K5ADA
jakadaok@aol.com

At Large Board Member

(Past President):
Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
n5vcx@worldnet.att.net

Club Happenings:

General Meeting

Second Thursday each month, 7:30 PM
Sugar Land Community Center,
226 Matlage Way

Board of Directors Meeting

First Thursday of each month, 7:00 PM
Fuddrucker's, 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 Thursday dinner at 7:00 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

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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: February 20, 2009, 7:00p.m.

HICKORY BARN BARBECUE, 11534 Wilcrest, ½ block S. of W. Bellfort
Ain Houston.

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.



Hamfests

(within 200 miles of Houston)

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

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

7 Feb 2009

Williamson County ARC - Annual Swapmeet

VFW Post 8587

[1000 North College Street](#), Georgetown, TX

Talk-In: 146.640 (PL 162.2)

<http://www.wcarc.com>

28 Feb 2009

Orange ARC & Jefferson County ARC

Orange, TX

VFW Post 2775

[5303 North 16th Street \(N Hwy 87\)](#)

Talk-In: 147.180 (+) no tone

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

7 March 2009

BVARC GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST

Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds,

[4310 Highway 36 South](#), Rosenberg, TX

Talk-In: 146.940 minus (PL 167.9)

<http://www.houstonhamfest.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@arri.net
Claude Sessions, K5HFY, k5hfy@arri.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

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**BRAZOS VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 2997
SUGAR LAND, TX 77487-2997
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

**February BVARC General Membership Meeting – THIRD Thursday, Feb. 19
BVARC Greater Houston Hamfest – Saturday, March 7.**

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