



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2010

VOLUME 34 ISSUE 9

BVARC General Membership Meeting – September 9, 2010 **Topic is HSMM-MESH™ High Speed Multi-Media Networking** **Presented by Andy, W5ACM and Kirk, KK2Z**

Come to the September meeting to learn about Ham based MESH Networks and to see some of the setups that were built and used in the Houston-based experimentation into HSMM with 2.4 GHz wireless routers. Before hand, read the article by Kirk within this newsletter and the full article located on the BVARC Tech Page on our web site at <http://www.bvarc.org/index.php?page=tech>



August Meeting Report

Although hot and humid in the meeting room, about 75 attendees enjoyed cooling off with Ice Cream at the annual BVARC Ice Cream Social in on August 12th. What made this Ice Cream Social special is that 10 of our past BVARC Presidents and their guests joined us in the camaraderie:

- 1983 Steve Gottlieb, WA5OEN
- 1985 Harold Parker, ND5F
- 1986 Steve Schuster, WA5G
- 1991 Allen Mattis, N5AFV
- 1992 Randy Pollard, AK5G
- 1994 Doug Holley, KE5SR
- 1996 Ron Grimes, WA5SCE
- 1999 John Moore, KK5NU
- 2000 Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
- 2001 Kevin Foto, KD5O

Many thanks to Ross Lawler for organizing the event, and for all the help from the BVARC members to make it a fun event! And thanks to Doug KE5SR for seeing that Bud King, K5CEK was his honored guest.



Commercial Advertising in the BVARC Newsletter

Notice: Beginning with the next month's issue, we will enforce the advertising rates as approved by the Board of Directors. Business card sized insertions are \$50 per year for 12 insertions. Half page ads are \$25 per insertion

President's Corner

By Rick Hiller – W5RH

BVARC – Are You Having Fun Yet?

Holy Perseids Meteor Shower, Batman! What more can you ask for. Ham radio, at its finest and fun-est. Ice cream, balloons, long time friends and radio; a better combination, you couldn't concoct.

The August Ice Cream Social and Past Presidents Night was a resounding success. Every one had fun that night with a gaggle of past presidents and a plethora of newly licensed ham ops and BVARC members. The attendees all enjoyed some ice cream and, unfortunately, put up with a bit of a toasty venue, but that just caused everyone to eat their ice cream faster. We'll have to do this again very soon, instead of waiting 5 years.

Next, take a few inquisitive hams, mix in some physics, mathematics, meteorology, electronics, chemistry, computer science, radio frequency technology and have some fun with it all. In a nut shell, that was the BLT-26 balloon launch and flight, at the Wharton Intergalactic Spaceport on August 21st. Everybody learned a few things, but most important, everybody had fun (and some good bar-b-que). Lots of pictures and video of this event on the web (one is on YouTube – search WA5CYI). Check it out!

Now, no matter whether CW (Morse code) is your cup of tea or the monster under your bed, you can't help but have fun on the new BVARC "Under 15" CW Net. This net started meeting weekly on August 17th and will meet every Tuesday evening at 7PM local time. Join in by checking in or just by having a listen. The speed is just right (under 15 WPM – hence the name). It is a social net with the sole purpose of getting everybody on the air with the CW mode. Info at <http://bvarc.org/index.php?page=cwnet> If you still question your ability to participate, just know that there are many BVARC'ers willing to help you improve your CW skills and your station's CW capability. All you have to do is ask.

On a slightly serious note, take the modern version of the Radio Amateurs Code. "The Radio Amateur is considerate, loyal, progressive, friendly, balanced and patriotic." With this in mind, please remember the strife of our fellow ham and long time club member and volunteer, Claude Sessions, K5HFY. Claude remains in the VA hospital recovering from a spinal injury. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers. We all wish him well.

Some other member information to report is that we added 4 new members and had 5 members renew this month. Welcome to Anita – WA5JMC, Travis – KF5HSE, Scott – W5RUA and Lee – W1WLV -- a new "Lifetime" member. Thank you, also, to Jim – N5DTT, Pump – WA5CYI, Ray – WA5F, Roy – W5TKZ and Ted – W5HEU for renewing their memberships to BVARC.

If you look at the past few months, we have had a bundle of new KF calls issued; according to John's, KK5NU, monthly VEC report in the BVARC Newsletter. Our hobby and club are growing with new folks to talk to on the repeaters and weekly nets. Welcome to all of the new Hams. I hope that you find Ham Radio as interesting and as fun as I and many other BVARC members do. Some words of advice: don't be afraid of trying new things and, please, ask for help on those things that you do not understand. All Hams were once at the place where you are. I can safely say that I certainly didn't know then, even a smidgeon, of what I know now, but I had some great Ham "Elmer" help along the way. Ham Radio is a wonderful and challenging journey, so, have fun with it.

Lastly – some more fun to have. Over the next 4 months BVARC members are going to have a great time at the meetings. We can all learn about MESH networks in September, Ham Test Equipment in October and we'll all vote for 3 officers in November along with eating chili and looking at everyone's favorite piece of ham gear. December brings us Homebrew night, to which we are going to add additional fun activities. Stay tuned. Don't forget to invite a friend to attend our meetings.

Also in this remaining time of 2010, we should all be looking at cooler weather and the opportunity to have fun supporting the BSA in JOTA, working Frosty's A25 DX'pedition or improving our antenna system for the coming superior, seasonal Top Band conditions and the HF/VHF/UHF contest season.

So, ask your fellow BVARC'er if they are having fun yet. Most likely, the answer will be a resounding YES!!! Enjoy your hobby. See you on the radio. Rick - W5RH (Dit Dit)



Do you know what QIN stands for? Go to page 5 to find out.

Public Service Events

Tour de Pink 2010 7 :00 am Sunday, September 19,

18 operators needed for the event. Operators will meet 4:30 am at the Denny's on FM 1960 just north of Hwy 290

Talk-in and event frequency will be announced at a later date.



BVARC "Under 15" CW Net

Tuesday 7PM

Join us for a fun filled 30 to 45 minutes of working the CW mode. Net is transmitted at 11/15 WPM Farnsworth spacing, so it is easy to copy. The net structure is just like the Rag Chew Net on Wednesday nights. Pre-ambler, call for check-ins "QNI?" and then each station is called "QTT" to invite them to transmit a short greeting or message. Net Control (NC) is Rick, W5RH. Frequency is on 3,550 KHz or on 28,043 KHz. We are switching frequencies in order to test for the better local coverage frequency. From September 14th onward, we will be on a constant frequency. Keep up to date each week by the BVARC list serve reflector or on the CW Net web page at <http://bvarc.org/index.php?page=cwnet> Just have a listen or join in, but do get on the air and have some fun.



BLT-26 2m FM / 10m DSB Repeater a Success

by Allen Mattis N5AFV

The South Texas Balloon Launch Team's successful launch and flight of BLT-26 on August 21, 2010 from Wharton "Intergalactic Spaceport" provided a repeat of last year's

exciting activity on the 2m FM / 10m DSB repeater during the flight of the balloon. The balloon was launched at 1705 UTC, and landed 118 minutes later at 1903 UTC after traveling a horizontal distance of 43 miles. BLT-26 achieved a maximum speed of approximately 70 MPH before bursting at an elevation of 89,538 feet. Because of the state-of-the-art GPS gear on the balloon, the chase crew was able to be in position to get video of the landing of the balloon payloads.

Many amateur radio operators do not have 70cm equipment and have been unable to use the 2m/70cm FM repeater flown on previous flights. The 2m FM / 10m DSB repeater makes it possible for amateur radio operators who have both 2m FM and HF equipment to work through a repeater on the balloon and participate in the event. Some of the operators heard participating were Rick Hiller, W5RH, Bill Stone, WS5H, Dave Beers, AF5T, Darrell Kirk, KC5JAR, Allen Mattis, N5AFV, Roy Storey, W5TKZ, Marty Smith, WD5DZC, John Chauvin, K5IZO, Andy MacAllister, W5ACM, Carl Warfield, KA5MEI, David Barber, K5NDB, and club stations KK5W (BVARC) and W5RPT (MERA). The uplink frequency was 146.435 MHz FM and the downlink frequency was 28.636 MHz DSB. Last year the repeater output power was in the 100-150 milliwatt range, and this year it was increased to 1.5 watts. The 2m FM / 10m DSB repeater was a separate payload, and the repeater and its container weighed one pound.

There is a learning curve to using the 2m/10m balloon repeater, and it took the stations a little time to figure out how to use the repeater. The repeater is rather simple in design and does not include audio limiting circuitry. As a result, if your uplink audio was too strong the audio in the downlink was distorted and difficult to understand. Using a headset allowed you to listen to yourself in the downlink and adjust your voice level accordingly. Operators had to almost whisper into the microphone or hold the microphone a foot or more away from their mouth.

A few operators used the AM mode to listen to the DSB downlink, however, most operators found that either USB or LSB worked better. Mobile 10m antennas such as a 102-inch whip or a 5/8 wave mag-mount converted CB antenna were satisfactory for receiving the downlink. There was often a delay of a second or two after you keyed up before the repeater began to relay your signal, and those who weren't using headphones were not aware that their first few syllables were being cut off.

Because of the increase in transmit power to 1.5 watts, it is believed that the batteries powering the repeater ran down shortly before the balloon burst. The repeater was also picking up noise in its receiver and transmitting it along with the audio from the uplink signals. This stacatto-like noise was annoying and there have already been discussions among members of the balloon launch team about eliminating these problems if the 2m./10m repeater is flown on future balloon flights. A special thank you to Bill Stone, WS5H, for providing information for use in this Historical Vignette.



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BVARC Greater Houston Hamfest kickoff meeting

This will take place on Thursday, Sept. 16. Contact Rick Hiller or John Chauvin for further details. See back page for contact information.



RESULTS OF THE August 10th 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, August 10, 2010 at HCC's Scarcella Science & Technology Building here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Dennis Dietrich, W5DDD
John Moore, KK5NU

Jeff Fussell, KD5VGE
George Ontko, KM5VP

Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
Mark Williams, WT5MW

Seven examination elements were administered during the evening to six applicants. Two new Technician class license, one new and one upgrade to General class, and one upgrade to Amateur Extra were attained; with the total number of elements passed being 6. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 85.71%.

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

Ethan J. Bobys	- KE5VNY	- General
Thomas Krahn	- {KF5IEX}	- General
Richard L. Packard	- {AE5TY}	- Amateur Extra
Jacob R. Pekarek	- {KF5IEV}	- Technician
Richard C. Teel	- {KF5IEW}	- 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 Science & Technology Building for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

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My Journey into HSMM-MESH™ by Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z

I was fortunate to be able to go on the Quarter Century Wireless Association “Ham Cruise” for 2009. Sailing with a group of 100 amateur radio enthusiasts was a blast! Antennas, radio, and propagation were discussed at every meal. And, there were scheduled talks to attend on “sea days”, which saved me lots of money by keeping me out of the Casino!

At one of the talks, Andy (W5ACM) and I listened to a presentation by Dr. John Champa (K8OCL) on High Speed MultiMedia (HSMM). Dr. Champa is the former ARRL Work Group leader that has been heavily involved in championing HSMM since the creation of the task force in 2001. The talk covered a lot of territory from frequency usage, equipment choices, application selection, and the general “state of the art” in applying high speed digital communications through off-the-shelf equipment. The concept raised the possibility of using HSMM as a balloon-to-ground network link for the upcoming BLT-26 balloon launch in 2010. In between talks, Andy and I continued discussions with others that had ventured into the HSMM experimentation, and we learned about groups in Plano, Austin and San Antonio that were actively deploying HSMM solutions in their emergency communication arenas.

So...what is HSMM? It’s a concept of using amateur radio as the vehicle for increasing the power and capabilities of off-the-shelf wireless network routers. The router of choice is the Linksys WRT54GL 2.4 GHz 802.11b/g router – a Linux based device that can be reprogrammed (that is, re-flashed) with free tools such as OpenWRT, Tomato, and DD-WRT. Amateurs in Austin and Plano have developed a variant called HSMM-MESH™ which adds self-discovering, self configuring, fault tolerant features in a standard download for all Hams to use. HSMM-MESH includes a concept called OLSR – Optimized Link State Routing protocol – which enables each network node to determine, not only its nearest neighbors, but all nodes within 2 hops. OLSR provides the ability to “route around” a failed node to automatically sustain a network.

In February, Kipton Moravec, AE5IB, presented an on-line seminar on HSMM-MESH that many of the Balloon Launch Team attended. Options for acquiring inexpensive high-gain antennas and portable setups were discussed, and the journey continued.

Come to the September meeting to see some of the setups that we’ve built and used in our Houston-based experimentation into HSMM with 2.4 GHz wireless routers. Visit the BVARC Tech Page on the web site at <http://www.bvarc.org/index.php?page=tech>. This article will outline the details of some of our work.

And, if you are interested in doing a little reading before the September presentation, go to <http://www.hsmm-mesh.org> and to <http://www.n5oom.org/hsmm/> to read about what other Texans have been doing in this area.



AMSAT ARTICLE DELAYED.

AMSAT published a 2 page article about satellite QSOs performed at the Museum Ships Weekend. Regrettably we cannot reprint it in this issue due to space limitations. We will try to print it in a later issue.



QIN is a “Q Signal” that BVARC created to inform participants in the CW net to check in. So, what does **QTT** mean? See Page 10 for the answer.



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Meeting Notebook – Upcoming BVARC Meetings

September –“HSMM-MESH™ -- High Speed Multimedia Mesh...What is it??" -- Kirk KK2Z, Andy W5ACM

October – The BVARC Elmers presents “Using Test Equipment”

November – Chili Dinner, BVARC Elections, and “Bring your favorite piece of Ham gear”

December – Homebrew Night

January (2011) – BVARC annual banquet and awards



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Monday Night NET Updates

Don't forget the Monday Night Public Service Net starts at **8 pm** on 146.94 (167.9). 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:

5/17 - 25 - Dwayne, kb5yta
5/24 - 32 - Pete, kd5qpx
5/31 - 17 - Syd, n5zkd
6/7 - 34 - Cam, k5cam
6/14 - 42 - Bill & Norma

6/21 - 20 - Dwayne, kb5yta
6/28 - 32 - Pete, kd5qpx
7/5 - 30 - Cam, k5cam
7/12 - 27 - kb5yta & kc5jar
7/19 - 27 - Dwayne, kb5yta

7/26 - 39 - Pete, kd5qpx
8/2 - 32 - Cam, k5cam
8/9 - 33 - Bill & Norma
8/16 - 27 - Sid, n5zkd
8/23 - 42 - Pete, kd5qpx





YOUR GONNA DO WHAT?!?!?

by Rick Hiller – W5RH

There are small groups of hams that engage in esoteric radio activities. Activities like bouncing VHF, UHF and microwave signals off the moon in order to communicate with other hams. **YOU'RE GONNA DO WHAT?!?** Yep, bouncing signals off of the surface of the moon, so that other hams can receive them upon their echoed return. I met a bunch of them, hams that is, and I saw it being done, EME that is. I actually heard some dits and dahs coming back to me after transmitting the string. About 2.5 seconds later.

Now, bouncing signals off the moon is no trivial matter. This is totally radical stuff...physics and mathematics at their empirical finest -- large antennas, big amplifiers, very low noise/high gain amplifiers in the receive chain, with lots of relays and sequencers and computer programs all mixed together. This concoction creates the sweet syntony of EM plane waves traveling through space to the Man in the Moon, who spits them right back at us, but not before attenuating them heavily, then mixing in a bit of Doppler shift and noise, even on the best of days (or nights).

Frosty, K5LBU, and I traveled to Dallas on August 12th, the Ice Cream Social Night, to attend the 2 day International EME Seminar. We had a blast as EME neophytes. For the first day we listened and tried to soak in as much of the incomprehensible, technical babble as our HF biased grey matter would permit. By the end of that first day our brains were fried. The second day, after a good nights sleep to let the subconscious sort, itemize and prioritize, we were back at it on Saturday. This time it was much better. We could see where these folks were coming from. Acronyms were figured out, like DEMI (Down East Microwave Inc.) and part numbers were looked up and understood, like GS-15 (a power amplifier based on a Russian tube).

Upon departure, at the end of 2 days, I commented to some of the very friendly EME old timers, that "Now I know, what I don't know"...and that, for me, is easy to correct, with massive amounts of reading and research.

So, if you have any interest in EME, come talk to me. I can now point you in the correct direction, at least. My 2 day exposure has been but a mere mosquito bite on the skin of the bizarre world of EME, but it has kick started me on a multi-year journey that will include building big antennas, home brewing converters and amplifiers and learning to use different digital modes on the computer. All of this concluding, fingers crossed, with many successful EME contacts with other living, breathing human beings back here on earth, via signals traveling 450,000 miles through the darkness of space. And this, my fellow hams, would be VERY COOL indeed!



BVARC Historical Vignettes – BVARC's 15th Anniversary Celebration

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

In 1992 BVARC was 15 years old, and the club decided to celebrate this milestone. Bill Dessens, N5KXU (now AA5BD), who had been president of BVARC in 1990, chaired the festivities. Bill planned two events for the club that centered around the club's 15th anniversary.

The first event was the April 9, 1992 general membership meeting where Bill presented a program entitled "The Early Days of B-VARC." Special recognition was given to charter members of the club, any members who had joined BVARC prior to 1980, and all past presidents of the club. Members from these three groups related stories about the early days of BVARC.

The main club event for the 15th anniversary was operation of a special event station. BVARC was able to obtain permission to use the M D Anderson Amateur Radio Club station for the event. It was decided to use Larry Levy's call sign, WD5DRB, for the special event station because Larry was a charter member of BVARC. The special event station would operate for 48 hours from 7 PM on Friday, May 15th through 7 PM Sunday, May 17th.

Gerry Borg, N5APW, was in charge of scheduling operators and planning the actual operation. A multi-band HF station, a Novice HF station, a CW HF station and a 2-meter station on the Texas Connection simplex frequency of 147.580 MHz were planned. Don Wade, WB5IBT, designed the certificate that would be available to those who worked WD5DRB during the

special event. Larry Levy, WD5DRB, was in charge of publicity for the event. The local Houston SHOT chapter of Ten Ten International submitted an announcement of the special event station to the Ten Ten International News.

The special event station was very successful. Well over 600 contacts were made and sign-in sheets indicated that at least 44 BVARC members had participated in operating the special event stations. There were “pile ups” at times when many stations were calling at once. Carl Hacker, KB5LDY, described these pile ups as being very “intense.” The M D Anderson Cancer Center came through with free parking for the participants. Many QSL cards, letters, and other documents were received along with the SASE’s for the special event certificates. Randy Pollard, AK5G, along with Don, WB5IBT, and Bill, N5KXU processed the bulk of the certificate requests.

Bill Dessens concluded his summary of the event in the club newsletter with the words “Now lets get ready for the 20th!” BVARC’s 20th anniversary passed without any special celebration, but perhaps in the future the club will again mark one of the club’s anniversaries with a special event station.



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THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

August check-ins

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

07/28/10, K5LKJ (NCS), K5IZO/5 (Jasper), W5RJA (Schulenburg), N5CPA, W5TOM, WA5CYI, WA5FMK, K5LBU, AA5OA, K0NM, WB5VWB, K5LJ, WS5H, K5NDB, KE5OBY (T), WA5NSF, KE5UTN (W. Monroe, LA), W5RH, W5TKZ, AB5YS (Harrisonburg, LA), W5HFF (M), KC5JAR (Katy). (22 Check-Ins)

08/04/10, K5LKJ (NCS), W5RH, K5CEK, W5RJA (Schulenburg), K5NDB, K5LJ, N5CPA, WS5H, AF5T, WB5PNL (Beach City), KC5FSY (Eagle Lake), K5LBU, K5IZO, W5TKZ, AA5OA, K5YZS (Spring), W5HFF (M), KC5ETX (Katy), WA5CYI, WA5JMC, W1WLV, WA9YNJ. (22 Check-Ins)

08/11/10, K5LKJ (NCS), N5CPA, WS5H, W5TKZ, WA5CYI, WB5PNL (Beach City), K5NDB, K5LJ, W5TOM, KC5JAR (Katy), W5RJA (Schulenburg), W5RH, KC5FSY (Eagle Lake), WA5FMK, KA5MEI (Hockley), AF5T, K5LBU, N5KDR (Austin). (18 Check-Ins)

08/18/10, K5LKJ (NCS), K0NM, K5NDB, W5RH, W5RJA (Schulenburg), K5LBU, K5LJ, N5CPA, W5TKZ, WB5PNL (Beach City), WS5H, AF5T, K5YZS (Spring), AA5OA, KE5OBY (T), W5HFF (M), WA5CYI, WA5JMC, KF5EYX, KC5JAR (Katy), N5TGL (M) (Baton Rouge, LA). (21 Check-Ins)

08/25/10, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, W5RH, N5CPA, K5IZO, WS5H, K5NDB, AF5T, W5RJA (Schulenburg), K5LJ, WB5PNL (Beach City), KF5CPC (Alvin), W5TOM, AA5OA, WA5FMK, KG5KV, KE5OBY (T), KD5GM (Deer Park). (18 Check-Ins)

(M) = mobile (P) = Portable (R) = Relay (T) = telephone check-in

Thanks.

Regards.

John C. Whiteman



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QTT is a Q signal that BVARC created to use in the CW net to tell the next person that it is their time to "talk." Be sure to see the article in this newsletter about the CW net.



2010 Club Officers:

President:

Rick Hiller, W5RH
rhiller@sdicgm.com

Vice President:

Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z
kmkendrick@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:

Arnold Knoche, K5ADA
jakadaok@aol.com

Recording Secretary:

Pete Sauermilch, KD5QPX
kd5qpx@arrl.net

Board Member:

David Barber, K5NDB
d_barber@att.net

Board Member:

Ross Lawler, W5HFF
w5hff@yahoo.com

At Large Board Member

(Past President):

Charles "Frosty" Frost, K5LBU
frosty1@pdq.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
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
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 146.94 (PL 167.9) at
8:00 PM

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.

OTHER HAM GROUPS:

WEDNESDAYS – WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH

LUBY'S CAFETERIA, 10:30a.m. to 12:00Noon +, 9797
South Post Oak Road, just south of the I-610 Loop in
Meyer Park Shopping Center.

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>

October 2, HamExpo

Bell County Expo Center, 301 Loop 121 (West), Belton, TX 76513

Website: <http://www.beltonhamexpo.org/>

Sponsor: Temple Amateur Radio Club

Talk-In: 146.820 (PL 123.0)





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>
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Claude Sessions, K5HFY, k5hfy@arri.net

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC) was organized in 1977, 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 146.94 (minus offset, PL 167.9 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
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

General Membership Meeting – September 9.

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