



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

APRIL 2011

VOLUME 35 ISSUE 4

BVARC APRIL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7:30 PM, Thursday, April 14, 2011

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

JOINT MEETING TDXS / BVARC

QST QST QST

Join us for a Joint Meeting of BVARC and the Texas DX Society (TDXS) on April 14 at the Sugarland Community Center at 226 Matlage Way (the normal BVARC meeting location) -- featuring two presentations by members of TDXS.

The first presentation will be "The C91, Mozambique DXpedition by six of TDXS members". Jim Boockholdt, N4AL, will present a very enjoyable slide presentation of their DXpedition. See website for additional info: <http://www.tdxs.net/c91.html>

Next, Paul Franz, W5PF and Cal White, WF5W, will present "How to Organize a Successful DXpedition".

After seeing the C91 DXpedition, everyone – even seasoned DXers – will enjoy this presentation.

If you have time to join us for a pre-meeting meal, please join us at 6:00pm at Vasos BBQ at 9920 Hwy 90-A, #D120 on the corner of Hwy 90-A and Dairy Ashford.

<http://www.vasos-bbq.com>

NOTE: All meetings from March through June will be at our "regular" meeting location – the Sugar Land Community Center on Matlage Way.



GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST - WOW

This Hamfest was the best one we have ever had. Everyone enjoyed themselves, all the guests and speakers appeared pleased and many people stayed to the very end. We had several new vendors and the tables were sold out. Check the website in several weeks after it has been updated. Thanks to the many dozens of members and non-members that made the Hamfest possible.

See Rick Hiller's (W5RH) President's Corner for more information.

Put March 3, 2012 down on your calendar for next year's Greater Houston Hamfest.

President's Corner

By Rick Hiller – W5RH

Wear out or Rust?

I have taken the liberty to renamed the BVARC Greater Houston Hamfest (GHH) to the “Greatest Houston Hamfest”. Why Greatest? Because it was REALLY great. Yes, even with the weather coming through in the early morning time frame. What made it great? Well, it all depends on your perspective.

If you were a paying entrant you would have seen 7 commercial vendors selling everything Ham Radio. A wonderful representation of SIG's (special Interest Groups) from ARRL to AmSat to MARS, to Ten-Ten. You could have attended some lecture sessions with Harold Kramer COO of ARRL, or Dr. Patricia Reiff, W5TAR, of Rice University or even one of the regulars like Jeff Hoke of Centerpoint Energy. You could have browsed at the 100 tables of tabletop sellers all the while sipping on a hot cup of coffee or eating a breakfast burrito or hot dog from the DX Kids Café. And, if you were really adventurous, you could have worked some contacts in the Phone contest from the special call HF station “W5H” or hunted for that illusive 2 Meter “Fox” or braved the gusting winds to hear a satellite contact being made. For just a few dollars more than the five that it took to get in, you could have bought a raffle ticket to win a Flex 3000 SDR or 2 meter mobile rig, or a HT antenna set up for satellites or even a 40 amp switching power supply. That sounds like a great Hamfest to me.

Now, from the other perspective, you could have spent a fair amount of time since last September organizing your portion of the Hamfest. Many committee meetings took place between September and March. Lunches were eaten and weekday nights were spent in conference rooms. Hundreds of e-mails went back and forth. Phone calls were made and letters were sent to commercial vendors, EmComm groups, SIG's, area clubs, technical experts. Etc. The BVARC and Houstonhamfest web sites were changed and modified and appended and corrected and then changed again (and again). This all leading up to Friday afternoon before the Hamfest -- you could have turned the large hall into a Hamfest by helping to move 120 tables and 500 + chairs into position, setting up the podium and Hamfest control central, erecting the outside HF antenna, taping signage to the walls and doors, rearranging the chairs in the talk rooms and setting up the A/V equipment to facilitated the speakers. Then hosting a dinner for the ARRL contingent, going home, in bed by 11 PM and waking at 4:30 (or earlier) to head to the fair grounds to open the gates at 6AM. Directing tailgaters and vendors to their proper location, ensuring all is ready for the 7 AM vendor set-up opening and the 8 AM general public entrance. Cash boxes in order, wrist bands at the ready. Then from 6 AM until 2 PM there was 8 hours of organized chaos and fun followed by the task of putting the place back into the form that it was before starting on Friday afternoon. Tables and chairs moved back in to position, floors swept, signs pulled down, speakers and TV monitors removed, saying your goodbye's and thank you's to the invited guests and commercial vendors.

Two very busy scenarios, but two very different scenarios. One was pure joy and fun and the other was a lot of work, but of great satisfaction. Both of them worth the trip out to the Fort Bend County Grounds. Which one were you? If you were of the first, THANK YOU for attending the Greater Houston Hamfest. If you were of the second, THANK YOU for making the Greater Houston Hamfest what it was. Your efforts were sincerely appreciated by the Hamfest committee and the Hamfest attendees.

For those that did not attend (or couldn't) all I can say is that you missed a good one. If you had to work or were working some other event (Livestock Show and Rodeo) then you have an legitimate excuse. But, if you looked out the window at 7AM and saw rain and went back to bed? Well, what can I say? You missed a good one (but we'll see you next year, right?). I know that I will be there and the others that put this together will be there again. We like doing it for the satisfaction of a job well done and because it is giving back the Houston Amateur Radio community. Some of the volunteers never even get to see the Hamfest from the, above, outlined attendee perspective. They only get to see it from the worker perspective and probably can sympathize with Hamfest co-chair John, K5IZO, when he stated, “that some day, he would like to ‘attend’ the Greater Houston Hamfest”. Good luck with that John (HI).

So which one were you? Did you attend, did you volunteer your time or did you stay away. The same question can be asked of all BVARC activities – there are those that organize things and those that attend...and those that stay away. My point is that there are some club members that don't attend meetings, don't volunteer and that don't even participate in the on the air activities, which they could do in their pajamas without leaving their home. These people will rust away their Ham Radio days, while the active BVARC members will wear out. Choose your poison – “Wear out or Rust” -- become active in the hobby and your club, again. Don't pass your ham radio days out in the rain and let the rust build up. Get up and get busy. Wear yourself out, it's a great feeling of pride and satisfaction, and the other BVARC members will then know who you are, for sure.

See you on the radio (and at the 2012 GHH). Enjoy your hobby. Rick – W5RH (dit dit)



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HAM RADIO IS BACK IN HOUSTON AGAIN!



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:

12/13 - 26 - Clint, kd5hdf
12/20 - 27 - Dwayne, kb5yta
12/27 - 26 - Pete, kd5qpx
1/3 - 31 - Cam, k5cam
1/10 - 38 - Clint, kf5hdf

1/17 - 29 - Dwayne, kb5yta
1/24 - 29 - Pete, kd5qpx
1/31 - 29 - Sid, n5zkd
2/7 - 40 - Cam, k5cam
2/14 - 32 - Clint, kd5hdf

2/21 - 34 - Bill, ws5h
2/28 - 38 - Pete, kd5qpx
3/7 - 31 - Pete, kd5qpx
3/14 - 30 - Clint, kd5hdf
3/21 - 37 - Dewayne, kb5yta

x



BVARC “Under 15” CW Net

Tuesday 7PM

Note: Frequency for March is – 3.550 MHz

Join us for a fun filled 30 to 45 minutes of working the CW mode. WE NEED MORE NEW PEOPLE TO CHECK IN!

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-amble, then the call for check-ins “QNI?”.... and then each station is called “QTT” to invite them to transmit a short greeting or message.

Net Control Station (NCS) is Rick, W5RH.

Frequency is on **3.550 MHz**. Listen to a sample pre-amble (mp3) 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 with some slow speed CW.



RESULTS OF THE March 5 BVARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION

As this newsletter goes to press, this information is not available.



DOOR PRIZE WINNERS – 2011 GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST



Greg Jurens (WD0ACD) from Flex Radio present the GRAND PRIZE WINNER Dave Wells (KD5E) his Flex 3000 SDR Radio



Second Prize winner Tim Koehl (K03HL) with the Kenwood handy talkie and satellite antenna



Third Prize winner Roy Stiegler (W5TCX) receiving his Alinco mobile 2M rig.

Fourth Prize winner, Glenn Geick (WA5OSA) has not yet been able to coordinate receiving of the Diamond 40A Power Supply.



THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

March check-ins

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

Below is the BVARC Rag Chew Net check-in information:

03/02/11, K5LKJ (NCS), WS5H, W5TOM, AF5T, W5TKZ, K5NDB, KE5UTN (W. Monroe, LA), AA5OA, KE5SR, K5LBU, WB5PNL (Beach City), N5CPA, W5HFF (M), N5DTT, K0NM, K5LJ, K5YZS, KE5OBY, W5RH, WA5CYI, K5YTV (Alvin), KE5VNX.

(22 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 113, SN = 72, A = 15, K = 2

03/09/11, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, N5CPA, K5NDB, AA5OA, K5LJ, N5DTT, K5IZO/5 (Jasper), K5ETX, WS5H, W5TOM/5, WD5EMN (T), W0FCM (Sealy), KE5HSW (Lake Charles, LA), W5HFF (M), KF5JMJ (Pasadena), WB5PNL (Beach City), W5RH, AF5T, KG5VU (Katy), KB5VTB, K5JWM (Katy), KC5JAR (Katy), WX5YX (Eagle Lake), WB5VYR, KA5MEI (Hockley). 26 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 143, SN = 137, A = 5, K = 1

03/16/11, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TOM, WS5H, AA5OA, K5NDB, N5CPA, W5TKZ, AF5T, K5IZO, N5DTT, WB5PNL (Beach City), KE5OBY, W5RH, K0NM, WA5FMK, W5RJA (T), WB5VYR. (17 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 105, SN = 47, A = 1, K = 1

03/23/11, K5LKJ (NCS), K5NDB, WA5FMK, N5CPA, WS5H, W5TKZ, K5LJ, K5IZO, WB5PNL (Beach City), N5DTT, W5RH, WB5VYR, K5CEK (T). (13 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 100, SN = 31, A = 8, K = 3

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

Thanks.

Regards._

John C. Whiteman



March Meeting Report

The March meeting featured three presentations on VHF/UHF Communications.

- Kirk KK2Z provided an overview of basic FM operations on UHF/VHF using a dual-band handheld transceiver
- Allen NQ5B gave a general overview of ARES, RACES, and emergency communications for the Ham Operator, and
- Mike N5VCX discussed the opportunities for amateur operators to help during public service events. A great discussion of the operations during the MS150 bicycle ride (Houston to Austin) helped everyone understand the scope of a large event.



Museum Ship Weekend Planning Meeting April 21.

A Museum Ship Weekend Event planning meeting will be held at Denny's, 8199 SouthWest Freeway, 59 & Gessner, inbound side of feeder road, April 21st at 7:15 PM. We need volunteers for the club sponsored event. If you can't make the meeting and wish to be a part of MSWE please contact Bill Stone WS5H 713-776-1030 or email dragntow@wt.net. More info will be available after the next BVARC Board meeting. 73 Bill WS5H



MS-150

Do you think you can handle communications for emergencies or disasters or medical situations? If you would like to find out how to be better prepared for emergency communications while helping out with worthy cause, then sign up to volunteer to help with communications for the BP MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Tour. Amateur radio communications is the primary communications for the MS150, providing reliable communications for the entire 2-day bike ride from Houston to Austin. Operators are assigned to critical position and specific locations along the route as well as being assigned to important individuals and groups during the event. The positions that amateur radio operators are assigned to are:

- **Break points** – Providing communications for supplies, medical problems and SAG control at break points on the route. – This can be just a few hours to a full day commitment. It is dependent on the location. **Amateur radio and MURS radio required.**
- **Medical vehicles** – Operators ride in ambulances and First Responder vehicles for emergency medical communications during the event. – **Two day commitment**
- **MS150 Staff** – Operators ride with MS150 staff to provide communications for important issues and problems during the ride. – **Two day commitment**
- **SAG vehicles** – Provided communications for the SAG drivers who are on the course picking up riders that have mechanical problems or that can no longer ride. – **Two day commitment and MURS radio required**
- **Supply Trucks** – Provide communications for the supply trucks so supplies can be routed to the needed locations to deliver supplies and materials. – **Two day commitment**
- **NET Control** – Net controls operations are set up in Houston and Austin. There are two NETS running at all times and many operators are needed to cover this very important position. - **This is a 1 or 2 day commitment depending on your location.**
- **Houston Command Post** – The command post interacts with medical incidents, and other problems on the ride. The command post monitors the ride on HF, VHF or UHF amateur bands. Medical vehicles are tracked with APRS units along the entire course and the information is relayed to the course medical coordinator. The command post is set up to receive calls from event personnel and emergency services along the route through an 800 telephone number to coordinate emergency calls and situations. - This can be a one hour commitment to two days. The command post is open from noon Friday to midnight Sunday so many operators are needed to fill this long time period.

Amateur radio volunteers need a minimum of a dual band, VHF/UHF radio that has a minimum of 25 watts output per band and a gain type magnetic mount antenna (1/4 wave antennas do not work). **If assigned to an event vehicle, you must be able to easily transfer between vehicles since assignments do change during the event. You are need to be prepared for vehicles with fiberglass roofs and fenders. If you are assigned to a break-point, you must also have a MURS VHF radio.** Food and sleeping areas (bed linens not provided) are provided for volunteers along the route on Saturday and Sunday by the NMSS organization. A secure parking area will be provided for your vehicle in Houston or Austin if needed. Transportation is available back to Houston for the volunteers that are assigned to event vehicles. More information on the MS 150 ride is available at www.ms150.org.

Volunteer hours begin at 4:00 am sharp on Saturday morning, the first day of the ride, and will end between 8 and 11 pm on Sunday. There are two informational communications meetings are held the week before the ride - one on Monday and one on Wednesday. If more information is needed, please go to www.houstonhams.org or Mike Hardwick at 713-771-4625.





BVARC Historical Vignettes – Public Service Events in BVARC’s Early Years

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

As previous Historical Vignettes have discussed, BVARC was formed in 1977 to provide emergency communications. The club stressed activities such as ARRL Field Day, the ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET), transmitter hunts, and training about tornadoes and severe weather. The early club leadership did not take an active role in promoting participation in public service events; however, many club members saw the benefit of such activities.

An editorial in the March 1981 club newsletter began by stating “Some club members have been participating in the public service activity of providing communications for civic events, such as the Houston-Tenneco Marathon, the Clear Lake Women’s Marathon, and the Mission Bend 10K Run.” The editorial continued by stating that BVARC had been asked to provide communications for the “Bellaire High School 5-Mile Run, a new annual event, and the first is on March 22, 1981.” Dick Hagerman, WB5SRN, was chairing communications for the event and the editorial concluded by stating “Let’s respond to his call and do this job 100% with B-VARC hams!!” This editorial marked the first time the club had come forward and officially sanctioned members participating in public service events. A second event, the Boy Scout Good Turn Program asked for BVARC’s help on the same date, and Richard Shankle, N5KV, stepped forward to chair communications for that event. The April 1981 club newsletter contained a listing of the club members who had worked the two events. This listing eventually grew into the B-VARC Public Service Honor Roll that listed all the public service events the club worked each year, and the members who had worked each event. This Honor Roll was very time consuming to keep up and it was dropped by the club approximately 15 years ago.

In 1982 BVARC was asked to provide communications for a number of public service events. In April it was the March of Dimes WALK AMERICA Walkathon. In May it was the Fleet Feet 10K Fun Run at the University of Houston. In June it was the Coronado 15 District Championship Regatta sponsored by the Lake Houston Sailing Club on Lake Houston.

In 1983 the list of events included the Houston Festival in March, the Buffalo Bayou Water Race (Reeking Regatta) in April, and Guadeloupe River Canoe Race from New Braunfels to the Gulf of Mexico that lasted three days. Many of these events asked BVARC to provide communications each year. BVARC’s history of providing communications for public service events continues to this day. Public service event communications was not something that the club’s founders envisioned, but is something that the membership wanted to do and certainly this activity conforms to the goals of an ARRL Special Service Club.



AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUBS JOINT TAILGATE SALE

FREE PARKING

COME & SELL, BUY, TRADE

When: April 30

Where: The Summit High School

1838 E Sam Houston Pkwy

(Beltway 8 bwtm Pasadena Blvd & Red Bluff)

Pasadena, TX.

Time: 7am til ?

Sponsored by:

**PARC, CLARC, BAARC, PERC
Pearland, Clear Lake, Baytown & Pasadena**





Minutes of February and March, 2011 Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club:

Rick Hiller called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:00 PM on February 24th, 2011 at Fudrucker's, 11445 Fountain Lake Drive, Stafford, TX. Attending were: Rick Hiller, W5RH (Pres.); Arnold Knoche, K5ADA (Treas.); Bob Tomlinson, N5JSL (Cor. Sec.); Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.); Bill Stone, WS5H (1yr At-Large Dir.); Eddie Runner, NU5K (Webmaster); Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; Suzanne Runner, KF5GWZ; Norma Stone, KE5NDN; Sharon Tomlinson, Charles Frost, K5LBU; David Barber, K5NDB; and Scott McKee, NT5SM.

- 1) Minutes for the January 2011 meeting were approved as previously distributed by email and appears in the February 2011 newsletter.
- 2) Treasurer's Report was presented to and approved by the Board.
- 3) Old Business:
 - a) Audit: Knoche reported that audit was conducted and the club is in good status.
 - b) Asset List: Runner reported that it is posted in the administrative portion of the web site.
 - c) Greater Houston Hamfest (GHH):
 - i) Knoche reported that BVARC has received the same pre-registration activity as we did last year to this date.
 - ii) Sauermilch reported that CERT volunteers have been requested from Harris and Fort Bend County programs. Fort Bend Office of Emergency Management & EMROG will have a communications trailer at the GHH. Fort Bend Sheriff's Office is not likely to have their communications vehicle at the event. No one knew if the Red Cross would have their vehicle at the GHH.
 - iii) Hiller reported that Flex Radio will provide a radio for the HF station at the GHH for visitors to gain hands-on experience.
 - iv) Stone requested that club donation forms be available for those donating to the club sales table.
 - d) Clothing: Hiller reported that the club logo has been scanned by the proposed club clothing vendor. Vendor will provide a sewn sample of logo for board approval.
- 4) New business:
 - a) Greater Houston Hamfest (GHH):
 - i) Knoche asked about the number of cash boxes that would be required.
 - ii) Hiller outlined how he saw door prizes and the radio raffle would take place.
 - iii) Knoche asked for a volunteer to count cash as an audit. Tomlinson volunteered.
 - iv) Stone volunteered part of the SHOT tables as a site for club members that volunteer to help out at our hamfest to sell items on consignment free of charge.
 - b) Tomlinson reported that he has been sending out welcome letters to new members.
 - c) Mitchell reported that the club now has 170 members.
 - d) Kendrick was not at the meeting but sent an email to the board regarding up-coming General Membership Meetings.
 - i) February: Allen N5AFV gave an in-depth look at ARISSat-1, AMSAT's Newest Satellite.
 - ii) March: VHF/UHF Communications – Are you ready for an Emergency?
 - iii) April: A very special event. The first joint meeting of Texas DX Society and BVARC.
 - iv) May, June: CW and Digital operations.
 - v) Meetings above will be at the Sugar Land Community Center on Matledge Way.
 - e) Museum Ships Weekend, 1st Weekend in June: Stone needs volunteers this year like never before. First organizational meeting will take place after GHH.
 - f) Plano Hamfest, 2nd Weekend in June: National ARRL Convention.
- 5) Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX



2011 Club Officers:

President:

Rick Hiller, W5RH
rhiller@sdicgm.com

Vice President:

Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z
kmkendrick@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary
Robert Tomlinson

Treasurer:

Arnold Knoche, K5ADA
jakadaok@aol.com

Recording Secretary:

Pete Sauermilch, KD5QPX
kd5qpx@arrl.net

Board Member:

Dywane Jones, KB5YTA

Board Member:

Ross Lawler, W5HFF
w5hff@yahoo.com

At Large Board Member

(One year – vs Past President):

Bill Stone, WS5H

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

See in adjacent column.

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>

HamExpo – Belton. April 2.

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

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

Talk-In: 146.820 123.0 Hz

HamCom & ARRL National Convention, Plano, TX. June 10.

Plano Convention Centre
2000 East Spring Creek Parkway
Plano, TX 75023

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

Talk-In: 147.180 MHz (PL 107.2)

TARS Hamfest, Texas City, TX - 7/09/2011

Doyle Convention Center
2010 5th Avenue North
Texas City, TX 77590

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

Talk-In: 147.140+ (PL 167.9)





Monthly Publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.
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BVARC Website: <http://www.bvarc.org>
Editor: John Chauvin, K5IZO, k5izo@yahoo.com
Production Team: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, k5cam@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 Scarella 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

BVARC General Membership Meeting – April 14, Sugar Land Community Center

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