



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2012

VOLUME 36 ISSUE 2

February Meeting Presentation

7:30 PM, Thursday, February 9, 2012

234 Matlage Way, Imperial Park Recreation Center, Sugar Land, Texas

“I Have My License.....Now What?”

by Rick Hiller – W5RH

With a newly licensed Amateur Radio Operator, trepidation is rampant. Hundreds of questions exist: What radio should I buy? What antenna should I use? Should I buy an HT? Can I get on HF? What if I interfere with the TV? And, on and on and on. Always remember, Ham Radio is a hobby and a “journey”, NOT a destination. All great things take time.

First order of your new Ham agenda is to grab onto an Elmer’s coattails and hang on. Elmers are very important in the beginning and throughout your Ham Radio journey. Secondly, attend the February 9th meeting and listen to the presentation. (You might also find an Elmer at the meeting.) This presentation will also be of benefit to the long term Technician VHF/UHF operator who is just now getting onto HF to enjoy the good band conditions of Cycle 24.

Hear about what equipment to buy and when. What is absolutely needed for your first home station or your mobile station or your portable station. What about the different modes like PSK-31, ECHO Link, WSPR, RTTY, CW, SSB, FM, AM etc.? We’ll talk about them also. You will leave the meeting with a greater knowledge of your path forth and with a list of references, both on-line and on paper, that you can use to enhance your knowledge quickly. Invite all of your Ham friends too. CU there.



January Meeting Report – See detailed article on the Banquet inside this issue.



Technician License Class:

Philip Hudson, WD5DAY

BVARC members, we would like to remind you of our upcoming Technician License Class. Please keep this in mind if you have any friends or relatives who want to get their Technician License.

- Dates and time: Wednesday nights, February 22nd to April 4th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.
- Location: Houston Elks Lodge #151, 10150 West Airport , Stafford , TX 77477 , located on West Airport between Murphy Road and Beltway 8.
- Cost: There is no charge for the class, but the student must have a copy of the current ARRL Technician License Manual.
- The current ARRL license manual is titled: “Ham Radio License Manual Revised 2nd Edition”
- A copy of the ARRL license manual can be purchased from the instructor.
- Preregistration is required--space is limited. Late sign-up will be allowed if there is available space.
- Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Contact Philip Hudson, WD5DAY, at 281-438-4554 for additional information.

The President's Corner

President's Corner

By Kirk Kendrick – KK2Z

QST...QST...QST...

I want to welcome all of you to my first President's Corner. I thought I would start off with a reminder of all the great things BVARC does!

To begin with, our membership is "almost" 200 members...at many different points in our Amateur Radio careers. Some of us are relatively new "no-code" Hams...that are just starting out. Some of our club Elmers have been at it for more than 50 years. The great thing about BVARC is that we all have a place – from Saturday morning breakfast, to weekly public service, rag chew, and CW nets, to monthly general membership and Board of Director meetings...not to mention Field Day, Museum Ships, and impromptu observing events (like the N5XZ CW challenge). The key is that we are in it together!

BVARC has something for everyone. As an example, our meetings start this year with –
February – let's start off with a talk to help new hams "Get On The Air". Once you get your license, you have to figure out what is important to you in Amateur Radio.
March – BVARC is hosting the National Weather Service SkyWarn training on Severe Weather Spotting
April – the Texas DX Society and BVARC will hold their second annual joint meeting with a special presentation on operating Ham Radio from Cruise Ships.

The FANTASTIC Greater Houston Hamfest is on Saturday, March 3 this year. Whether you volunteer to help put on the event...or attend a talk or find something to buy or sell...or just want to come hang out with friends...make sure and mark your calendar and BE THERE!

BVARC's main operating events – Museum Ships Weekend and Field Day – occur in June. Keep tuned to learn about how you can help out!

With all those opportunities to try something new, you need to "Get On The Air"!

Welcome to BVARC!!

73 de Kirk KK2Z



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:

As this goes to press, this information is not available. Check next month for 2 month's of listings.



TO THE EDGE OF SPACE - AND FLOAT!!!

A special balloon launch will take place on February 11. Go to the BLT team website for details:
<http://w5acm.net/b28.html>



January Meeting/Banquet Report

BVARC holds their Annual Awards Banquet in January, in lieu of a general membership meeting. Friday night, January 20th was the date and the Arabia Shriners building on Harwin at the Beltway was the venue. Seventy eight BVARC'ers and guests showed up to enjoy the camaraderie, the magic and the accolades that were flying all over the room.

The evening started with a cocktail hour (BYOB) with Rick Hebert, the wandering magician, going around the room displaying all his tricks while we all visited with our fellow BVARC'ers. We were then treated to a sit down magic show where Rick got some of us involved in his prestidigitation. Rick held everyone's attention and his magic was enjoyed by all.

A buffet style dinner was then served by the catering staff. Beef Wellington and Chicken Cordon Blue were the main entrée's with potatoes and green beans on the side. Finally a cream puff took care of everyone's sweet tooth. After the meal, the festivities, the reason we were there, started. Rick Hiller, W5RH, was the MC and gave a brief introduction to many members of the club who had given of their time to support the clubs activities. The 2011 board was introduced, along with the new 2012 board of Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z, President; Ross Lawler, W5HFF, V.P.; Bob Tomlinson, N5JSL, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary; Pete Sauermilch, KD5QPX, Recording Secretary; David Barber, K5NDB, 2 Year At Large Member; Dwayne Jones, KB5YTA, 1 Year At Large Member and Rick Hiller, W5RH, in the Past President's seat.

John Moore, KK5NU, presented quite a few of the club elders and active members with a 2012 "Hooters" Calendar. It was not what you would think, so think "owls" HI HI. Thanks to John for that bit of levity. Then Rick, W5RH, recognized those in the club that work their magic monthly on various tasks. He presented them with their call signs cut out of wood for display in their shacks. Those so honored were Robert Polanski, KD5YVQ; Kirk, KK2Z; Cam Mitchell, K5CAM; Bill Stone, WS5H; John Chauvin, K5IZO; Bob, N5JSL and Ross, W5HFF.

Rick then explained the main three BVARC Annual Awards. Two would be given that evening. The Loop and Zepp was awarded to a very surprised Dwayne Jones, KB5YTA for his work at Field Day and Museum ships Weekend with managing the equipment transfer and putting up (and taking down) the multiple HF antennas at both events. Dwayne is always there to lend a hand at anytime and anywhere. Congratulations to KB5YTA!

Next, the Order of the Key, our clubs highest award, was presented to Pete Sauermilch, KD5QPX, for his long term commitment to the BVARC Board of Directors as Recording Secretary and for his month to month liaising with the City of Sugar Land setting up our meetings 6 months on advance. Pete also takes the helm of the Monday night Public Service VHF Net, once a month. An award well deserved of Pete and his contiguous, year-long efforts for the club. Congratulations, Pete!

Lastly, our Keynote speaker, Andy MacAllister, W5ACM, commandeered the stage and screen and took us all on a cruise through his 50 years as a radio aficionado -- "Half a Century of Radio - From Crystal Sets to Moon Bounce". A very interesting and enlightening speech that culminated with a challenge to all listeners to do something different within their Ham Radio hobby in the next 12 months (before the earth, as we know it, ends).

That was it. If you were there, let's hope you had fun and enjoyed the food. If you were not there, then you missed a great one. You can see some of the highlights on You Tube, courtesy of Pump, WA5CYI. Go to www.YouTube.com and search for "BVARC". Find and play the video -- "Annual Awards Banquet for 2011".

Also, the BVARC website has the pictures taken by Travis, K5HTB, on display. You might also find yourself in this lot of soul stealing.

For photos, please go to the BVARC website, www.bvarc.org



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THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

January check-ins

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

12/28/11, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, W5TKZ, K5NDB, K5CAM, K5LBU, AA5OA, N5CPA, KK2Z, K0NM, W5RJA (T) (Round Rock), K5LJ, KE7HOP/4 (M) (Panama City, FL), KD5MLD/5 (Clinton, LA), WS5H, K5IZO, AF5T, W5RH, KC5JAR (M) (Houston), K5DLL, WB5PNL (Beach City), WN5A, KE5OBY, K5HTB, WB5UIG (West Columbia). (25 Check-Ins)
 Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 145, SN = 126, A = 2, K = 1

01/04/12, K5LKJ (NCS), N5CPA, W5TKZ, AA5OA, K5LBU, K5CAM, K5NDB, WS5H, K0NM, K5LJ, W5RH, KK2Z, WB5PNL (Beach City), N5DTT. (14 Check-Ins)
 Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 136, SN = 95, A = 3, K = 1

01/11/12, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, WS5H, K5LJ, K0NM, K5IZO, AA5OA, AF5T, N5CPA, K5CAM, K5LBU, W5RH, N5DTT, W5JRH (Dayton), WA5CYI, K5NDB, WB5PNL (Beach City), WB5VYR, KE5OBY. (19 Check-Ins)
 Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 129, SN = 63, A = 4, K = 1

01/18/12, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, K5CEK, N5CPA, K5LBU, WS5H, KC5JAR (M) (Houston), K5CAM, K5DLL (Deer Park), K5LJ,

(M) = mobile (P) = Portable (R) = Relay (T) = telephone check-in
 Thanks, Regards, John C. Whiteman, K5LKJ

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Dwayne - KB5YTA Eddie Jr – KB5OBB

Russell - KE5YYT- Darrell-KC5JAR

Patricia -KE5YYV - Suzanne -KF5GWZ

www.riveroakscarstereo.com

www.installer.com

HAM RADIO IS BACK IN HOUSTON AGAIN!



BVARC “Under 15” CW Net

Tuesday 7PM

3.550 MHz

Join us for a fun filled 30 to 45 minutes of working the CW mode. We welcome new folks with open ears, so join us. 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. NCS sends the pre-amble, then calls for check-ins “QNI?”.... and then, after checkins, each station is called “QTT” to invite them to transmit a short greeting or message.

Net Control Station (NCS) is Rick, W5RH, but some nights WS5H, Bill, or others take over, so listen carefully right at 7 PM. Frequency is on 3550 KHz (+/- 3 KHz pending QRM).

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.



Ten-Ten Winter Phone Contest / BVARC Big AI Challenge

- Dates: Starts at 6:00 pm CST on Friday Feb 3rd, 2012,
Ends at 5:59 pm CST on Sunday Feb 5th
- Mode: SSB – 28.300 MHz to 28.490 MHz for Technicians but up to 28.900 MHz for others
- Exchange: Call Sign, Name, QTH (state), 10-10 Number (if available – #0 otherwise)
- Who Can Play? Everyone. You do not have to be a member of 10-10 to play
- QSO Logging: Logging Software is optional but highly recommended. www.n3fjp.com has 10-10 QSO Party Log 2.6 software for \$7 and is recommended. It checks for dupes etc and will create a final report for submission to 10-10. You may also wish to consider Win 10-10 by K4HAV: www.hds.net/win1010.htm .
- Information: Please read the rules at <http://www.ten-ten.org/Forms/QSO%20Party%20Rules.pdf>

N5XZ Contest-within-a-Contest Challenge

Big AI (N5XZ) is a big Dxer and holds the # 2 spot for most contest contacts and points ever in a 10-10 contest. He will be working for the # 1 spot in this upcoming contest. After we beat him in the last CW contest, he wants a rematch. So, here we go again. However, there is NO handicap this time. It is simply the total number of QSO's for him versus ALL the BVARC members who participate in the 10-10 contest.

You do not need to be a member of Ten-Ten and if you have no Ten-Ten number that is ok. Just use number zero when making a contact. The bands will most likely be wide open. If you want to get a 10-10 number, all you need to do is collect 10 10-10 numbers and you will have what it takes to send in for your own 10-10 number. If you are a 10-10 contester and submit your score, please include Houston SHOT (Space Houston On Ten) in the chapter affiliation line in the score sheet if you have a SHOT number.

Bill will be using our BVARC club call (KK5W) and his own number to score double points for BVARC. Bill has worked the club call in Ten-Ten contests in the past and will shoot for #1 or # 2 spot in the Club Call category for BVARC. It will be a slower going pace giving out 2 for 1 contacts but it will double up contacts in the Big AI Challenge.

Send your logs to Nizar Mullani at mullani@tlite.com and he will tally the scores for the Challenge. A special award will go to whoever gets the highest number of single QSO's in the contest.

If the 10 meter band has died down the SHOT Chapter will hold a Friday and Saturday Net on 28.488 at 8PM local time to gather and swap #'s and contacts with our local club members. IF THE BAND IS OPEN THEN HAVE FUN IN THE SEARCH AND POUNCE MODE OR SET UP ON A CLEAR FREQUENCY AND CALL CQ. The net will meet later on 28.488.



Editor's Note:

Due to the amount of material included in this newsletter and also a short time frame, some articles had to be printed in smaller font and some layout had to be changed. Also photos from the banquet were to be included, so please go to the BVARC website to see those and many more. Furthermore, many updates were made to the "boilerplate" so if you note any errors, please let the editor know. Lastly, this issue was very problem plagued to publish so something might be missing or not quite right. Your understanding is appreciated.





Fun with Old QST's

If you are an ARRL member, you have a tremendous resource available to you. QST's on-line from 1915 thru to 2007. [The last 5 years are not available for download yet...as they limit access to everything except the last 5 years.] Spend some time looking at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-periodicals-archive-search>.....if you put in only the year , month and QST, then the engine will bring up the whole QST magazine (in PDF format), referenced by article or column. You can download the articles' PDF file into Adobe Acrobat or Adobe PDF Reader. Once there you can save the PDF to your machine or print it out. Some articles are way out of date, as they are highlighting old technology (i.e. vacuum tubes, etc.) but other articles like about antennas and feedlines are quite applicable (the physics never changes, only the materials and the application do). In the 1920's Hams were just learning about antennas and coming into their own on resonant antennas, balanced feeders, etc. So, the articles are quite good at explaining the theory in a simpler vocabulary. Plus, it is enlightening when you realize that you are presently using antenna designs that have been around almost 100 years and they haven't changed all that much. Have fun and happy book worming.



Results of the January 10th BVARC Amateur License Examination Session by: John Moore, KK5NU

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at HCC's Scarcella Science & Technology Building here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

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

Fourteen examination elements were administered during the evening to ten applicants. Four new Technician licenses were attained, one new General class and two upgrades to General Class and two Amateur Extra Class licensed were attained; with the total number of elements passed being 10. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 71.4%.

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

Brandon A. Burris	- {KF5OBY}	- Technician	Ian D. Marsac	- {KF5OCB}	- General
Michael J. Dominick	- {KF5NZQ}	- General	Marvin G. Miller	- {KF5OCC}	- Technician
Bryan T. Emerson	- {KF5JFQ}		Robert B. Tomlinson	- {N5JSL}	
	- Amateur Extra			- Amateur Extra	
Paul Harrison	- {KF5OBZ}	- Technician	John C. Willis, Jr.	- {KC5EVC}	- General
Tom L. Lynch	- {KF5OCA}	- Technical			

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.

..... 73 ...





AMATEUR RADIO PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Here are some of the upcoming public service events that need help from amateur radio operators:

To participate, please send Mike Hardwick an e-mail at n5vcx@att.net or call me at 713-826-6917 and let him know.

February 4th, 2012	Saturday	7:00 am	Puddle for the Ducks	Katy	Mike Hardwick
February 11th, 2012	Saturday	8:00 am	Pedaling the Prairie	Waller	
April 21st/22nd, 2012	Sat/Sun	7:00 am	BP MS150 Bike Tour	http://bpms150.n0xfd.com/	



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Who Can Play? Everyone. You do not have to be a member of 10-10 to play

QSO Logging: Logging Software is optional but highly recommended. www.n4fjp.com has 10-10 QSO Party Log 2.6 software for \$7 and is recommended. It checks for dupes etc and will create a final report for submission to 10-10.

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BVARC Historical Vignettes – BVARC’s Club Banner

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

Over the years BVARC has had a number of club banners used to display the club name and logo at various events. The banners have been proudly displayed at ARRL Field Day, the Greater Houston Hamfest, and many other club activities where we want people to notice our presence. It seems that every five or ten years the banner is misplaced or torn and the club acquires a replacement banner.

A BVARC banner has been used by the club since the very early days. BVARC was founded in 1977 and an earlier Historical Vignette related how the club logo came into existence and how it was approved by the membership at a club meeting in 1980. It was shortly after the logo was approved that the club decided a banner was needed to display the logo at club activities.

The first BVARC club banner was actually made by club members in a member’s garage circa 1980. The banner was carefully painted by hand. As we have done for so many of the club activities, a group of members gathered together at the appointed time and place and worked together on a club project.



Figure 1: Circa 1980 - Steve Gottlieb, WA5OEN, painting letters on BVARC’s first club banner

One of the very first public service activities BVARC had was the Sharpstown Mall Mother’s Day Event and the club was proud to display the banner at the mall. An earlier Historical Vignette related how the Sharpstown Mall Mother’s Day Event was held from 1982-88 to send Mother’s Day greetings from the public to their mothers via amateur radio. The Sharpstown Mall Mother’s Day Event will be revisited in a future Historical Vignette. A special thank you is owed to Steve Gottlieb, WA5OEN, for providing the photographs in this Historical Vignette.



Figure 2: BVARC’s first club banner displayed at Sharpstown Mall circa 1983



Minutes of January 5th, 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 January 5th, 2011 at Fudrucker's, 11445 Fountain Lake Drive, Stafford, TX. Attending were: Rick Hiller, W5RH (Pres.); Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z (V.P.); Bob Tomlinson, N5JSL (Cor. Sec./Treas.); Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.); Dwane Jones, KB5YTA (2yr At-Large Dir.); Bill Stone, WS5H (1yr At-Large Dir.); Ross Lawler, W5HFF (2yr At-Large Dir.); Eddie Runner, NU5K (Webmaster); Suzanne Runner, KF5GWZ; Norma Stone, KE5NDN; Sharon Tomlinson, KF5HUF; Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; John Chauvin, K5IZO (Newsletter Editor); Charles Frost, K5LBU; David Barber, K5NDB; Mike Hardwick, N5VCX; Jerry Muller, KF5EYC; Nizar Mullani, N0NM.

1. Old Business:

- 1.1. Minutes for the December 2011 meeting were approved as previously distributed by email and appears in the January 2012 newsletter.
- 1.2. Treasurer's Report was not presented. Tomlinson reported that he had succeeded in loading the financial software but did not have a report ready.
- 1.3. Kendrick reported the following General Membership Meeting programs are arranged.
 - 1.3.1. Jan: Banquet
 - 1.3.2. Feb: New Ham introduction to HF
 - 1.3.3. Mar: National Weather Service Skywarn Training
 - 1.3.4. Apr: Joint meeting with Texas DX Society
- 1.4. Hiller reported that Tomlinson has sent a check to organizers of the Texas QSO Party to cover plaques that BVARC is donating.
- 1.5. Hiller reported that banquet plaques have been purchased. Pump Handle Fawcett, WA5CYI, will video record the event.
- 1.6. Chauvin reported that the next organizational meeting for the Greater Houston Hamfest will take place on January 12th.
- 1.7. Tomlinson asked about status of the Wish List. Chauvin produced a current wish list document for board members. After much discussion, Tomlinson moved that we accept the current document as it establishes targets for upcoming events and can be amended by the board in the future. Motion carried.
- 1.8. Jones inquired about the status of the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund TX PAC donations. Tomlinson read the IRS rulings about how a 503(c)3 organization can donate. The board agreed that we a within the IRS guidelines.

2. New business:

- 2.1. Stone reported that PayPal allows gifts to be transmitted through their system at no cost to the recipient. He suggested that BVARC use that mechanism to collect member funding. The board responded that members are not sending gifts when they receive value for their monies.
- 2.2. Stone reported that he wants to secure the clubs 10-10 number for the upcoming 10-10 contest and then allow all club members to come into the contest under that number. Hiller informed Stone that his proposal was not a board matter and needs to talk to the BVARC call trustee.
- 2.3. Kendrick reminded the board that at the banquet he will become president and the vice-president position will become vacant. Lawler is willing to fill the position. Kendrick made a motion that Lawler be appointed to the vice-president position when it becomes vacant. Motion carried.

3. Other Business:

Muller reported to the board that HARS has a new owner and upcoming activities.

4. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX



2011 Club Officers:

President:

Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z
kmkendrick@gmail.com

Vice President:

Ross Lawler, W5HFF
w5hff@yahoo.com

Corresponding Secretary / Treasurer

Robert Tomlinson, N5JSL
rbtswim@gmail.com

Recording Secretary:

Pete Sauermilch, KD5QPX
kd5qpx@arrl.net

1 Year At-Large Board Member:

Dywane Jones, KB5YTA
dwayneredhonda@gmail.com

2 Year At-Large Board Member:

David Barber, K5NDB
d_barber@att.net

Past President:

Rick Hiller, W5RH
rhiller@sdicgm.com

Club Happenings:

General Meeting

Second Thursday each month, 7:30 PM
Imperial Park Recreation Center,
234 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

Under 15 CW Net

Tuesday night, 7PM, 3.550 MHz

BVARC EATING SCHEDULE

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

59 DINER, 7:00a.m., SW Freeway outbound service road, near
Kirkwood.

NEW YORK COFFEE & BAGEL SHOP, 7:30a.m., 9720 Hillcroft.

THURSDAYS BEFORE CLUB MEETINGS--6.15p.m.

VASOS BAR-B-Q, 9920 Hwy. 90-A, #D-120 on the SW corner of
US Hwy. 90-A and Dairy Ashford.

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 BAR-B-Q, 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>

2012 Orange Hamfest – February 25, 2012

Location: Orange, TX

Sponsor: Orange ARC and Jefferson County ARC

Website:http://www.qsl.net/w5nd/index_files/HAMFEST%20INFO/hamfest%20info

Greater Houston Hamfest – March 3, 2011

Location: Rosenberg, TX

Sponsor: Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Website: 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
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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 Imperial Park Recreation Center, 234 Matlage 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 \$200.00.

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
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

BVARC-N5XZ Challenge – Feb. 4 – 6, 2012
General Membership Meeting – February 9, 2012

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