



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

MARCH 2014

VOLUME 38 ISSUE 3



## **BVARC MARCH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

7:00 PM, Thursday, March 13, 2014

3599 Westcenter Dr, Houston, TX, Tracy Gee Community Center

### Teaming Up with TDXS

This month the Texas DX Society will be hosting the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio club at the Tracy Gee Community Center. The presentation will be the 3DA0ET Dxpedition presented by Bob and Frosty. Please come join us for some mingling with the local DX big guns. This is a great opportunity to learn about the art of DX from those who take it very seriously.



### February Meeting Recap – Public Health and Ham Radio

February kicked off a short series of talks which show how Amateur Radio works together with our Government agencies. To kick off this series, our own Nathan Vessey (N5NYV) talked to us about the Department of Public Health for Harris County, their purpose and how they expect Amateur Radio to play a part.

Please join us in April when the series continues with a presentation by the NavyMARS group presented by Jerry Hargett / NNN0GBY.



**REMINDER: The March meeting will be held at the Tracy Gee Community Center**



**2014 Greater Houston Hamfest, Saturday, March 22.**

**For details, see the flyer inside this issue or go to the website:**

[www.houstonhamfest.org](http://www.houstonhamfest.org)



## Greetings to BVARC and all who read our newsletter,

The next BVARC 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday general membership meeting will be at the Tracy Gee Center hosted by the Texas DX Society. For years both clubs have had a once a year joint meeting at our clubhouse meeting facility. It was mentioned by TDXS past Prez Doug WB5TKI to have the meeting at the TDXS meeting location and so we obliged. The presentation will be a good one as our BVARC/TDXS member Frosty K5LBU made one of his DX safari's to Africa and the current TDXS Prez W5UQ Bob was one of the DX operators that will present the Swaziland 3DA0ET Dxpediton. TDXS has secured a large meeting room, much larger than the one we are using now, to accommodate both club's members for the presentation. Please break the routine drive made into Sugar Land and mark your calendar for a drive to Beltway 8 and Richmond Ave Houston area at 7 PM for a great presentation. Perhaps make a plan for the Pre Meeting dinner at Pa Pa's BBQ that kicks off at 5:30 PM. Location of meeting and pre dinner info details are in this issue of the newsletter and posted on the bvarc.org website.

Our BVARC Greater Houston Hamfest is set for a launch on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and again it will be a good one. If you are new to Ham Radio or never found time to make a Hamfest, you will want to attend and will be happy that you did. Top-notch speakers will give many great presentations. New and used Amateur radio gear sold for a good price at the tables, Amateur Radio License exams are available outside of the main building in separate room, demonstrations, transmitter foxhunt and the list goes on. Do not forget to save 4 bucks off the 10-dollar main building admission ticket price that includes a raffle ticket by pre registration via our BVARC website. If you plan to purchase a table get one soon. The Hamfest sells out of tables quick and this year maybe even faster. A quick mention that I have gotten great deals on used gear and felt comfortable with the purchase by using the BVARC equipment check out table provided at Hamfest.

As I write this article it is Go Texan Day. Many BVARC members are involved with the Houston Livestock and Rodeo along with the BBQ cook off teams. Thanks for keeping the Texas Cowboy tradition alive in Houston.

It is interesting to note that our Hamfest in past years fell upon the ARRL SSB Intl DX contest. I had almost forgotten this contest per my involvement in the Hamfest. I am geared up to contest and will say in advance I hope you did well in the contest and many new DXCC countries are in your log.

At our last general membership meeting Randy AA5OA volunteered to help take the growing load of elmership that Ross W5HFF has been doing well as Club Elmer. BVARC now has CLUB ELMERS. If you are available to help a Ham in various projects for advice or demo in a specific area of expertise, please send an email to Randy and Ross to be added to the referral list.

Along with the many service work opportunities available in BVARC – Help Wanted – Need a BVARC Advertising Agent to promote advertisements in the BVARC Newsletter.

73 & CU soon  
Bill WS5H



### Where in the World is . . . Amsterdam Island (FT5ZM) AF-002, CQ Zone 39

Amsterdam island, lies in the Indian Ocean about halfway between the Southern tip of Africa and the Western coast of Australia. Known as one of the rarest DX locales, it is listed as No.7 on the DXCC Most Wanted List.



As a result of a well-organized and highly publicized DXpedition, it has been in the ham radio spotlight and in the sights of many DX hunters for three weeks this past January and February. On February 10<sup>th</sup>, with still a couple of days to go, FT5ZM has accumulated over 160,00 QSO's as of this writing.

The island was discovered by the Spanish explorer Juan Sebastián Elcano in 1522. It was later named by Dutch captain Anthonie van

Diemen, calling it *Nieuw Amsterdam* after his ship. During its history, the island was the site of at least one shipwreck and the marooning of Captain Pierre François Peron.

Several attempts were made to settle the island which were finally abandoned, leaving behind their cattle, who eventually became feral.

There are no native land mammals, but animal inhabitants include house mouse, brown rat and feral cats. A distinct breed of wild cattle, also inhabited the island from 1871 to 2010. They originated from the introduction of five animals; after a brief attempt at settlement of the island in 1871 and by 1988 had increased to an estimated 2,000.



Following recognition that the cattle were damaging the island ecosystems, a fence was built restricting them to the northern part of the island. In 2007 it was decided to eradicate the population of cattle entirely, resulting in their slaughter between 2008 and 2010.

La Roche Godon, the only settlement on the island, is the capital of the territory and is home to about 30 non-permanent inhabitants involved in biological, meteorological and geomagnetic studies.

**Where in the World is . . .**  
**Sao Tome & Principe (S9)**  
**AF-044, CQ Zone 36**

The Democratic Republic of Sao Tome is an independent island nation lying off the coast of Gabon and Equatorial Guinea in West Africa. It is barely North of the Equator at 0 degrees, 12 minutes North Latitude.



São Tomé was founded by Portugal in 1485. The Portuguese came to São Tomé in search of land to grow sugar. The island was uninhabited before the arrival of the Portuguese sometime around 1470. São Tomé was right on the equator and wet enough to grow sugar in wild abundance. Its proximity to the African Kingdom of Kongo provided an eventual source of slave laborers to work the sugar plantations.. It was the capital of the Portuguese colony of São Tomé and Príncipe and, since São Tomé and Príncipe's independence

in 1975, capital of the sovereign nation.

The first ever census was carried out in 2011 with the help of the National Statistic Institute (INE) of Cape Verde.

Of São Tomé and Príncipe's total population estimated at 163,784 by the government agency about 157,500 live on São Tomé and 6,000 on Príncipe. All are descended from people from different countries taken to the islands by the Portuguese from 1470 onwards.

In the 1970s, there were two significant population movements—the exodus of most of the 4,000 Portuguese residents and the influx of several hundred São Tomé refugees from Angola. Almost all are adherents of the Roman Catholic, Evangelical Protestant, or Seventh-day Adventist Churches, with a small Muslim population.

Sao Tome is the 157<sup>th</sup> most wanted DXCC entity.





13<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST



Hosting the

## ARRL South Texas Section Convention

Saturday, March 22, 2014 - 8 am – 1:30 pm

Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 4200 Highway 36, Rosenberg, Texas

*On-line seller Table selection and Registration*

### THIS YEAR AGAIN:

- Raffle -- with multiple high dollar value prizes
- Equipment test station – spot check equipment before you buy
- Tailgating area, with 7AM early seller/buyer access
- Special seller parking for easy unloading and table access

**Keynote Speaker:** Bob Allison, WB1GCM, ARRL Senior Test Engineer

**Featured Speaker:** Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB, CQ Magazine Kit Builder Editor

### RAFFLE: Tickets \$1 each, 7 for \$5

#### GRAND PRIZE

Icom IC-7100,  
Mobile HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver w/ Separation Kit and Mounting  
Bracket



Provided by BVARC and Icom

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE

Kenwood TM-V71A  
Mobile Dual Band Xcvr  
Provided by Houston Amateur Radio Supply & Main Trading Company

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> PRIZE

West Mountain Radio, Rigblaster Advantage  
Provided by West Mountain Radio

#### 4<sup>th</sup> PRIZE

Ten-Tec 707 Microphone with 718 Weighted Base  
Provided by Ten-Tec

#### 5<sup>th</sup> PRIZE

MFJ-1278 Super Sound Card Interface  
Provided by River Oaks Car Stereo

#### 6<sup>th</sup> PRIZE

MFJ-861 Microphone Audio Controller  
Provided by River Oaks Car Stereo

For detailed info, pre-registration and table selection, please go to: [www.houstonhamfest.org](http://www.houstonhamfest.org)

Every pre-paid admission receives two raffle tickets

Door prizes drawn every 10-20 minutes with high value prizes drawn throughout Hamfest.

#### Programs:

- Training seminars
- Information lectures
- APRS operation
- Satellite operation
- DXCC checking
- Hands-On Demos
- Live HF Station

#### Displays & Info:

- AMSAT
- Equipment Test Station
- Ham License Testing
- RV Camping and Local Lodging
- On-site food – DX Kid's Cafe
- Texas QSO Party
- 10-10 & Houston SHOTNet
- Fox Hunt by SETAC – Prize: BaoFeng UV-5R Dual-Band HT provided by BVARC.
- Tailgating – 7AM access by sellers & buyers

#### Miscellaneous:

- Admissions: On-Line reservations up until March 8, 2014 - \$6. Includes 2 raffle tickets.  
At-Door: \$10 – Includes 1 raffle ticket.  
Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts in uniform – Free. Children under 14 Free!  
Tailgate: \$5 per vehicle. No individual admission required to tailgate area.  
Tables: All tables - \$15 (choose tables on-line in advance). Those with 5 or more tables receive 2 free admissions.  
Electricity available to pre-registrants (\$5 total). On-site registration – electricity as available.  
Set-up available: Friday 3-7 PM, Saturday 6-8 AM

Contact: Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z, [kk2z@arrl.net](mailto:kk2z@arrl.net) or Call: 281-639-5088. Note: The GHH reserves the right to change this information. Rev. D

—Talk-in – 146.94 (minus offset) 167.9 tone—

## THE BVARC Rag Chew Net February Check-ins

01/29/14, K5LKJ (NCS), W5HFF, WA5CYI, W5TOM, K5LJ, W5TKZ, KE5OBY (R), K5IZO, K5LBU, K0NM, W5RH, KF5PHA, K5CEK/5 (RCS), VK2AJB/5 (RCS) (Sidney, Australia), AA5OA, KD7LSD (Rodeo, NM), KD6KE (Miramar Beach, FL), AF5T, WS5H, AL7AX (Katy), WA5KXG, N5CPA, KF5OXF (Needville), KF5JMJ (Pasadena), KF5TFJ, KC5JAR (Katy), KC5JAV (Abita Springs, LA).

(27 Check-Ins). Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 157, SN = 70, A = 5, K = 2

02/05/14, K5LKJ (NCS), W5HFF, W5TKZ, KF5TFJ, W5TOM, VK2AJB/5 (RCS) (Sidney, Australia), KE5OBY, K5LJ, N5DTT (Bellaire), K5IZO, K5HTB, KC5JAR (Katy), AF5T, W5RH, WS5H, KA5MEI (Hockley), K5CEK/5 (RCS), AA0ST (Dickenson), N5CPA, AL7AX (Katy), KD5FBA, WN5A, KF5PHA, AA5OA, KF5JMJ (Pasadena), KE5JAB (Beaumont). (26 Check-Ins). Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 188, SN = 183, A = 5, K = 1

02/12/14, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, AA0ST (Dickenson), W5AAF (Round Rock), W5TOM, VK2AJB/5 (RCS) (Sidney, Australia), K5CEK/5 (RCS), WS5H, AF5T, K5LJ, KE5OBY, K5LBU, K0NM, AA5OA, KF5OXF & KF5SGS (Needville), W5RH. (17 Check-Ins). Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 160, SN = 151, A = 9, K = 2

02/19/14, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TOM, WS5H, W5HFF, W5TKZ, AF5T, K5CAM, K5LJ, K5LBU, KF5TFJ, AA0ST (Dickenson), N5CPA, KE5OBY (R), K5WRN, AL7AX (Katy), K5CEK/5 (RCS), VK2AJB/5 (RCS) (Sidney, Australia), KE5HDF, KF5JMJ (Pasadena), KF5OXF (Needville), W5RH, KF5PHA. (22 Check-Ins)  
Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 151, SN = 134, A = 7, K = 3

(M) = mobile (P) = Portable (R) = Relay (RCS) = remote controlled station (T) = telephone check-in

Come join us each Wednesday evening. Regards. John K5LKJ



### Vertical versus Horizontal – an Observation by Rick – W5RH

Empirical demonstrations are always best, and my latest experience is no different. For many years I have had a vertically oriented, vertically polarized 40 meter delta loop. It works very well on my 40 meter skeds to VK. So well that I decided to put up, nested within its' borders, 2 more delta loops, also vertically polarized, for 20/17 and 12/10. They fit, they matched and they worked in my other band weekly skeds to VK3.

With antennas, I am always thinking "what next" -- I had this idea to rewind the traps of a Mosley TA-33 Yagi driven element for 20, 17 and 12 (originally 20, 15 and 10). K5HM's need for a contest rotatable dipole got me off square one when we built his 20-15-10 dipole out of scrap parts I had. I took that design and interpolated it and, long story short, had a dipole for 20, 17 and 12. Spot on band coverage for all three bands, simply by rewinding the traps. I decided to put this dipole up at 35 feet, above the 20 meter loop (also above the 12 meter loop). I fed them individually, so that I could compare with a simple in-shack switch – a vertically polarized delta loop versus a horizontally polarized dipole.

VK3 sked time – first weekend.....20 M dipole wins hands down by up to 2 S units. Over the next few weeks we compared 20, 17 and 12 meters, dipole to loop. Dipole won every time; sometimes unreadable signals on the vertically polarized loops gave a readable signal on the dipole. WOW!

Why? -- IMHA (In My Humble Analysis) the loops (modeled) were giving a fairly low 20 degree launch angle, but the dipole at its' height was giving (modeled) a slightly greater angle, 25 degrees, but it also had the major benefit of ground reflection gain.

So....what did I do? I pulled down the 2 inner loops and went to just using the dipole for 20 thru 12. I am now implementing a rotator and mast (with thrust bearing) arrangement to turn the dipole and keep the 40 meter loop fixed.....plus I am adding a fixed full size 80 meter dipole with a center at 40 feet. The goal is to have resonant, horizontally polarized antennas, rotatable if possible, on all bands 80 thru 10. It's looking good!



# River Oaks Car Stereo

4129 Richmond (near Wesleyan) 713-626-7627  
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**Angelo - KF5MJV**  
**Blake - KF5RKJ**  
**Patricia - K5PLR**

[www.houstonhamradio.com](http://www.houstonhamradio.com)  
[www.riveroakscarstereo.com](http://www.riveroakscarstereo.com)  
[www.installer.com](http://www.installer.com)

**Yes, we can install Ham radio in your car!**



## BVARC Night of Baseball

BVARC will have a night out at the ball park on Saturday, May 10. Come and enjoy some fellowship with other members, and their spouses, of the club.

Details are as follows:  
6PM, Saturday, May 10.  
Skeeters' Baseball Park, Sugar Land.  
Ticket, Hot Dog and Soft Drink - \$18  
Remit funds via Pay Pal to: [a.caprio@sbcglobal.net](mailto:a.caprio@sbcglobal.net)

See Ya @ The Ballpark  
Art Caprio/KE5OBY



## 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:

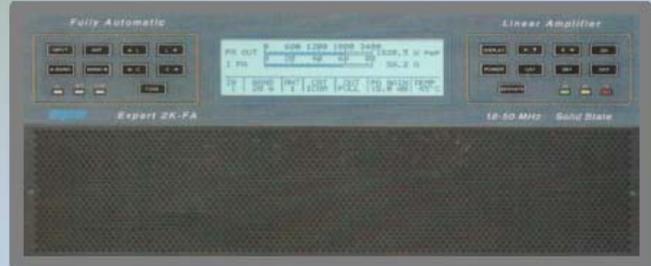
11/18 - 26 - Ron, k5hm	12/23 - 11 - Pete, kd5qpx	1/27 - 38 - Pete, kd5qpx
11/25 - 24 - Pete, kd5qpx	12/30 - 16 - Terry, k5pgf	2/3 - 34 - Cam, k5cam
12/2 - 23 - Cam, k5cam	1/6 - 35 - Cam, k5cam	2/10 - 30 - Willard, kd5eka
12/9 - 18 - Willard, kd5eka	1/13 - 30 - Willard, kd5eka	2/17 - 24 - Ron, k5hm
12/16 - 22 - Ron, k5hm	1/20 - 28 - Ron, k5hm	2/24 - 32 - Pete, kd5qpx



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160 thru 6 Meter coverage -- Built-in dual voltage power supply -- Embedded antenna tuner  
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Dallas, Texas 75238



### **Radiosport Items on Note for March 2014**

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

QSO Parties – An easy way to try a contest for the first time. State QSO Parties are relaxed events. If you happen to need these states for WAS, they are a great way to work states you can't easily find on the bands otherwise. .

- Idaho QSO Party – Mar 8<sup>th</sup> - Mar 9<sup>th</sup>
- Wisconsin QSO Party – Mar 9<sup>th</sup> – Mar 10<sup>th</sup>
- Virginia QSO Party – Mar 15<sup>th</sup> – Mar 16<sup>th</sup>
- Oklahoma QSO Party March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Mar 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Louisiana QSO Party – Mar 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>

#### SSB Contests

ARRL International DX Contest, SSB Mar 1<sup>st</sup> – Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> USA Vs. The World  
CQ WW WPX, SSB Mar 29<sup>th</sup> – Mar 30<sup>th</sup> – Lots of DX too

#### Mixed Mode

Russian DX contest Mar 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>

#### CW Contests

NAQCC Straight Key /Bug Sprint Mar 20<sup>th</sup> – Only two hours long

First Class CW operators' Club QSO Party Mar 22<sup>nd</sup>

Digital

EA (Spain) PSK 63 Contest Mar 8<sup>th</sup> – Mar 9<sup>th</sup> – Twice as fast as PSK31

North American Sprint RTTY March 9<sup>th</sup> - A Quick 4 hours. Sprints require you to QSY often. Check out the QSY Rule

For details on any of these contests, visit the web link at the top of the page or the contest calendar on [www.bvarc.org](http://www.bvarc.org)

#### Selected Special Events in March

WIAW Centennial Celebration – W100AW ARRL 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary special call sign continues in March.

W!AW portable operation – Work toward WIAW WAS by working WIAW portable in every state. Scheduled in March week beginning are:

Idaho – 3;/5

Kentucky – 3/5

Arizona – 3/12

Ohio – 3/12

Tennessee – 3/19

New Mexico – 3/19

Iowa – 3/26

Vermont – 3/25

For details on every Special Event in March, go to

[http://www.arrl.org/special\\_events/search/page:3/Date.start:2014-02-01/Date.end:2014-02-28/model:Event](http://www.arrl.org/special_events/search/page:3/Date.start:2014-02-01/Date.end:2014-02-28/model:Event)

Reporting from the Dark Side,  
Ron, K5HM



### **Results of the February 11th 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, February 11, 2014 at HCC's Scarcella Science & Technology Building here in Stafford, TX.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Jeffery P. Fussell, KD5VGE

John Koppenhaver, N0BNA

John Moore, KK5NU

Randy Pollard, AK5G

Marie Schaer, KD5UJT

Robert Tomlinson, N5JSL

Two examination elements were administered during the evening to two applicants. One new Technician class license was attained, along with one upgrade to General class; with the total number of elements passed being 2. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

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

Michael Harbaugh	- {KG5AIV} - Technician
Robert D. Owens, Jr.	- KF5ZBV - General

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 ....



## Minutes of the February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Bill Stone called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:05 PM on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston 77074. Attending were: Bill Stone WS5H (Pres); Michael Wren K5WRN (V.P.); Bob Tomlinson N5JSL (Cor.Sec./Treas.); Michael Monsour ACØTX (Rec.Sec./Quart.); Ron Litt K5HM (2yr At-Large Dir.& Radio Sport); Jerry Muller KF5EYC (2yr At-Large Dir.); Kirk Kendrick KK2Z 1 yr Past Pres.); Eddie Runner NU5K (Webmaster); Suzanne Runner KF5GWZ; Cameron Mitchell K5CAM; John Chauvin K5IZO (Newsletter Editor); Matt Tatro K5NGU; Mike Hardwick N5VCX; Pete Sauermilch KD5QPX; Norma Stone KE5NDN;

1. Minutes for the January 2014 meeting were approved as previously distributed and as appears in the February newsletter.
2. Treasurers Report was presented to the board. Compared to last year the club finances are down ~\$1000. 2013 financials have been turned over to an accountant for a review, The Treasurers Report was accepted by the Board.
3. Old Business
  - 3.1 December 3.2 meeting location: Pete Sauermilch secured the present meeting site Eldridge Conference Center for six more months but there is a need for a better meeting site. The Board approved this to be tabled till the May Board meeting.
  - 3.2 December 4.3--4.3.3 Appointment of a Parliamentarian: John Chavin agreed to take this task on, after Hamfest and was appointed by the President.
  - 3.3 Budget Presentation by Ron Litt
    - 3.3.1 2013 performance: 2013 income comes mainly from 60% Hamfest, 18% Banquet, 14%Dues, 9%other
    - 3.3.2 2013 Expenses: 35% banquet, 30% Hamfest, 12% postage, 5% MSWE, 18% other
    - 3.3.3 2013 Results: ~\$850 surplus, spending is too much, no money added to reserves. There are unforeseen events such as: examples, WA5CYI repeater gift, MSWE, triplexer, Spectrum Defense Fund gift.
    - 3.3.4 Review of IRS rules on 501 c3 regarding surplus and profits from related activities.
    - 3.3.5 Since 60% of club income is from the Hamfest, BVARC is very vulnerable to a Hamfest that gets less income due to bad weather, lower sales or unexpected expense.
    - 3.3.6 Membership: 213 members, 138 dues paying (65%), 56 life (26%) 13 new members, 19 did not renew. Newsletter costs are up because of postage increases.
    - 3.3.7 Banquet budget buster: Banquet revenue 18%, banquet expense 32%
    - 3.3.8 2014 Baseline Budget Assumptions: Reduce MSWE expense by \$400, dues same, banquet same, Hamfest \$600 less, Field Day budget \$1000, No donations from the Club to others, No Wish List expenditures till 2015, Postage cost up 6%.  
2014 Budget Recommendations: Raise dues now to \$25/year, raise Life Membership to \$400, Increase Banquet fee in December, watch expenses and budget integrity is key. Find new revenue sources, membership campaign, kit building activity to make a profit, charge tailgate fees, an annual auction-invite area clubs to participate, collect advertising monies, encourage member renewals.
  - 3.4 There will be a special open meeting for more discussion regarding the budget.
  - 3.5 Kirk Kendrick made a motion to accept the 2014 baseline budget as presented. Jerry Muller seconded it. The motion was voted on and was passed with a nay from Ron Litt.
- 4 New Business
  - 4.1 Hamfest Report by John Chavin. Everything is on track. There will be a featured speaker as well a keynote speaker. Since the budget was approved and the Hamfest budget was in the approved budget, there is no further approval is needed for funding.
  - 4.2 WA5CYI Repeater donation table at Hamfest with BVARC table with additional funding request is to be renewed after Hamfest
  - 4.3 BVARC Night Out at the Park, loan request is tabled till the next meeting.
- 5 Meeting adjourned by 8:40PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Michael Monsour ACØTX





## **BVARC Historical Vignettes – BVARC Board of Directors Meetings**

**Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian**

The present structure of the BVARC Board of Directors has evolved over the past 37 years that our club has been in existence; however, the basic form of the board has not changed significantly. The club was organized in 1977 and the first club newsletter was published in March 1978.

According to the November and December 1980 club newsletters, the Board of Directors consisted of 3 directors, President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer. The immediate Past President also served on the Board. The By-Laws stated that “The offices of Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer may be held by one (1), two (2) or three (3) persons (one (1) person per office.” Over the years the number of persons comprising the BVARC Board of Directors has varied as these three offices were combined in different ways.

The early club newsletters contain very little information about BVARC Board of Director meetings. The club calendar in newsletters from the early 1980’s listed the date that Board of Director meetings were held but not the location. From what charter club members have told me, the Board of Director meetings were held at the same place where membership meetings were held. In the early days of our club the meeting places were the Missouri City Fire Station and, the Missouri City Municipal Building on Texas Parkway. In 1991 BVARC began to meet at the Sugar Land Community Center and both Board of Director and membership meetings were held there through 2005.

On January 7, 2006, the BVARC Board of Directors met at the Viking Den in Stafford where the Board of Directors meeting was combined with the Saturday breakfast. The following month the Board of Directors meeting had a dinner meeting venue and from February 2006 through June 2008 the Club Happenings calendar in the newsletter directed readers to check the BVARC website to find out where the Board of Directors meeting would be held. Meeting places varied and included Denny’s Restaurant, Brookstreet Bar-B-Q Restaurant, Live Oak Grill, Dimassi’s Mediterranean Buffet, Grimaldi’s Pizzeria in Sugar Land, and Otto’s Barbeque in Stafford. In July 2008 the Club Happenings calendar in the newsletter began to list the location for the board meetings. In recent years most of the BVARC Board of Director meetings were held at Fudrucker’s in Stafford, but beginning February 2014 the meeting venue was changed to the Bayland Park Community Center.

The minutes of the BVARC Board of Director meetings that appear in the club newsletters list the names of non-board members who attend the meetings. Members have always been welcome at the BVARC Board of Director meetings and club newsletters do not mention closed meetings. There have only been a few times such as when the BVARC Board of Directors votes for the “Loop and Zepp” and “Order of the Key” awards that non-board members have been asked to leave the room. Many club members believe that the fact that club members are welcome at Board of Director meetings is one of the reasons why our club is so successful.



2013 Club Officers:

President:

Bill Stone, WS5H  
[dragntow@wt.net](mailto:dragntow@wt.net)

Vice President:

Michael Wrenn, K5WRN  
[michael.wrenn@gmail.com](mailto:michael.wrenn@gmail.com)

Corresponding Secretary / Treasurer

Robert Tomlinson, N5JSL  
[rbtswim@gmail.com](mailto:rbtswim@gmail.com)

Recording Secretary:

Michael Monsour, AC0TX  
[msirc@wildflower.net](mailto:msirc@wildflower.net)

2 Year At-Large Board Member A:

Jerry Muller, KF5EYC  
[gmuller885@aol.com](mailto:gmuller885@aol.com)

2 Year At-Large Board Member B:

Ron Litt, K5HM  
[k5hm.ron@gmail.com](mailto:k5hm.ron@gmail.com)

1 Year Past President Board Member

Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z  
[kmkendrick@gmail.com](mailto:kmkendrick@gmail.com)

Club Happenings:

General Meeting

Second Thursday each month, 7:30 PM  
2511 Eldridge Rd, Sugar Land, 77478, Eldridge  
Park Conference Center (Check page 1)

Board of Directors Meeting

First Thursday of each month, 7:00 PM  
Bayland Park Community Center  
Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet,

Volunteer Examiner Program

BVARC administers Amateur License Exams  
on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the HCC  
Scarcella Technology Campus, 10141 Cash Rd.  
in Stafford.

Contact John Moore, KK5NU

[jwm@hal-pc.org](mailto: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 (167.9) at 8:00 PM



## BVARC EATING SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

IHOP, 7:00a.m., SW Freeway inbound 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 +, 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>

### **3/22/2014 | Greater Houston Hamfest**

**Location:** Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds, Rosenberg, TX

**Sponsor:** Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.

**Website:** [HoustonHamfest.org](http://HoustonHamfest.org)

### **03/29/2014 | HamEXPO**

**Location:** Belton, TX

**Sponsor:** Temple Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://tarc.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](mailto:k5izo@yahoo.com)  
Production Team: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, [k5cam@arri.net](mailto: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-©-(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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:w5hff@yahoo.com) or see the BVARC website: [www.bvarc.org](http://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 – Thursday, March 13**

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