



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2016

VOLUME 40 ISSUE 2

BVARC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Thursday, Feb. 11, 2016

Remember the old game "I packed my grandfather's trunk, and in it I put..."? Well the February meeting is Emergency Communications – Go Kit Info presented by Kerry Mallory, AE5JY. Find the info you need for your personal Go Kit and adopt the Boy Scout Motto "Be Prepared".



Banquet Report

Rice Professor Patricia H. Reiff was our guest speaker for the annual BVARC Awards Banquet. Pat explained things we never knew before about space "weather". The banquet was held January 15th at Maggiano's Little Italy, the same a last year. The speaker was great, the food was great, and the fellowship wonderful. We had an excellent turnout for this annual event and kudos to Ron Litt for organizing the festivities on behalf of the club.



Upcoming Meetings

February 11 th , 2016	Emergency Communications – Go Kit Info	Kerry Mallory, AE5JY
March 10 th , 2016	Homebrew Contest	Jon Noxon, KF5TFJ

Your suggestions are needed for club meetings. Let someone know on the board if there is something you would to know more about or would like a club program on.

73
N5VCX





The Prez Says

The new year is moving fast with February already here. We had a wonderful start for the year with a great banquet with over 80 people attending, the largest crowd ever for the club's banquet. Hopefully the large crowd at the banquet will be sample of what will come at the Greater Houston Hamfest.

I want to thank Ron Litt, K5HM for his help as the banquet coordinator. Ron did a great job contacting Maggiano's Little Italy restaurant and setting up banquet. I want to thank Ron again for his great job. Dr. Pat Reiff, W5TAR did a wonderful presentation that was interesting and informative. I want to thank Dr. Pat for coming out and helping with the banquet.

There was also one person that I did not thank for his hard work at the banquet. Rick Hiller, W5RH, did an excellent job on putting the program schedule together and coordinating the door prizes. Rick also put together a video program that yours truly forgot to introduce at the banquet. For this I apologize to both Rick and the club for my lapse in memory. I hope Rick will present the video at a club meeting in the new future for everyone to enjoy.

With less than two months to go for the Greater Houston Hamfest, everyone on the planning committee is working around the clock to organize another great event. There are still a ton of things that need to be done to make the Hamfest successful. The one thing that will be needed to make a successful Hamfest is volunteers. So if you are interested in helping out, contact either Rick Hiller, W5RH; or John Chauvin, K5IZO or anyone on the BOD. There will be several Hamfest meetings coming up so keep checking your e-mail.

One final note, on January 30th BVARC lost one of their long time members, Bud King, K5CEK. Bud was one of the long term members of BVARC and was one of the guiding voices for the club. Bud will be missed.

Hope to see everyone at the February meeting.

73,
N5VCX



Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Board of Directors Meeting Dates and Times for 2016

February 6 th , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park
March 5 th , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park
April 2 nd , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park
May 7 th , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park
June 4 th , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park
July 9 th , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park
August 6 th , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park
September 3 rd , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Location TBD
October 8 th , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park
November 5 th , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park
December 3 rd , 2016	9 to 10:30 am	BOD meeting	Bayland Park

BVARC Historical Vignettes – BVARC Member Bud King K5CEK Silent Key

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

Members of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club were saddened to learn that Bud King, K5CEK, passed away on January 12, 2016 at the age of 99 years. Bud was very proud of his U.S. Marine Corps service as a Sergeant in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Bud was also a long time member of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.

I first met Bud King in 1991 when I was president of BVARC. Bud was a new member of BVARC at that time and the club was meeting in the upstairs room of the old Missouri City Fire Station on FM 1029 Texas Parkway. I was facing my first crisis as BVARC president. Due to a planned renovation of the fire station I had just been notified that we could only meet at that location one more time. We had to find a new meeting place immediately. When I announced this to the club, Bud King came forward and told us that the Sugar Land Community Center had a meeting room that the club could use. Bud was a Sugar Land resident and volunteered to “sponsor” us so that we could meet there. BVARC met at the Sugar Land Community Center for 20 years before being notified that we had to find another location for our meetings.

Finding a location for the annual BVARC awards banquet has been difficult at times. Bud King was a member of the Hess Club on Westheimer and with Bud’s sponsorship the BVARC awards banquet was held at the Hess Club 1994 through 1998.

Bud always enjoyed the Saturday morning BVARC breakfasts. When he could no longer drive, his wife Edith brought him to the breakfasts. Doug Holley and others would bring Bud to the breakfast when Edith was not able to do so. Except for the last several years when his eyesight was failing, he almost always attended the Saturday morning breakfasts.

Bud was also a regular check-in to the BVARC Public Service Net. Even during his last few years when he lived at Colonial Oaks in First Colony, Bud was able to check into the Public Service Net because BVARC members set up a 2-meter rig for him to use. Bud King K5CEK was an active and valuable member of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club for 25 years and we will miss him.



Clifton Eugene King, K5CEK, passed away on January 12, 2016 at the age of 99. Known as King or Bud, he was born in Grantville, Kansas on July 29, 1916. He moved to Houston in 1936 and joined the Marines in 1945, serving in the Pacific until 1945. He worked at several blue print companies in the Houston area as district manager to branch manager to president. He became an active ham radio operator in retirement becoming one of the long time members of BVARC. Bud served on the Board of directors and was a guiding voice in the history of BVARC.

Services were held on Saturday, January 30 at Calvary Episcopal Church in Richmond Texas. Memorial contributions may be made to The Texas State Library Talking Books Program, PO Box 12516, Austin, Texas 78711-2516, Calvary Episcopal Church, 806 Thompson Road, Richmond, Texas 77469 or Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.

Submitted by Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, President, BVARC



Minutes of the January 9th, 2016 Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Mike Hardwick called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to at 9:15 AM on January 6th, 2016, at Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston 77074. Attending were:

Mike Hardwick N5VCX (President.), Donovan Balli KD5BDZ (Treas.), Michael Monsour ACØTX (Rec.Sec./Quart.), Scott Medbury KD5FBA (2yr At-Large Dir), Jerry Muller K9GEM (1yr At-Large Dir.), Jon Noxon KF5TFJ (Vice President), Eddie Runner NU5K (Webmaster), Cameron Mitchell K5CAM, Rick Hiller W5RH, John Chauvin K5IZO (Newsletter Editor/Parliamentarian), Ron Litt K5HM (Radio Sport), Pete Sauermilch KD5QPX, Michael Wrenn K5WRN. Came later for the Hamfest meeting: Mike Brannon KA5OXA, Roy Storey W5TKZ

Reports:

- 1.1 A motion was made and passed to accept last month's minutes.
- 1.2 A motion was made and passed to accept the Treasurer's report.

Old Business:

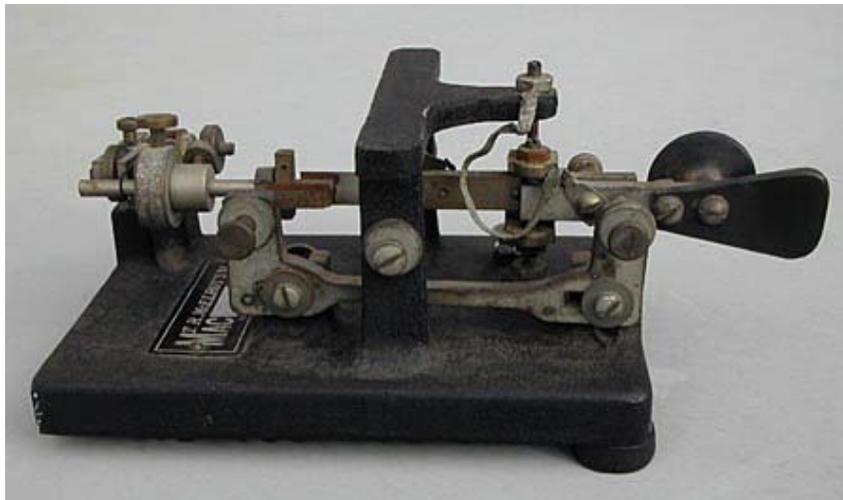
- 2.1 A change in the Hamfest coordinator:, Nathan Vessey stepped down due to circumstances beyond his control. Rick Hiller, John Chauvin and Mike Hardwick will now be the hamfest coordinators. A motion was made and passed for the new hamfest coordinators.
- 2.2 A motion was made and passed to approve a Hamfest budget of \$10,000.
- 2.3 The Banquet seems to be going well with 76 people attending.
- 2.4 February 11 meeting will be Emergency Communications
- 2.5 March 10th Homebrew contest with non-members being able to participate.
- 2.6 April, May and June still open for general meetings.
- 2.7 Mini Maker Faire with Nathan Vessey, Pete Sauermilch and Ron Litt went very well.
- 2.8 Field Day and MSWE coordinators positions are still open.

New Business:

- 3.1 ARRL Booth kit has been obtained.
- 3.2 Jim Burrough N5DTT has accepted the position of being the ARRL interface at the Hamfest.

Meeting adjourned at 9:44 AM

Submitted by Recording Secretary Michael Monsour ACØTX



McElroy Key, 1936



**Results of the January 12th
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 12, 2016 at HCC's Scarcella Science & Technology Building in Stafford, TX.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

- Richard Goldy, K5GOL
- Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
- John Moore, KK5NU
- George Ontko, KM5VP
- Randy Pugh, AA5OA

One examination element was administered during the evening to one applicant. One new Technician class license was attained, with the total number of elements passed being 1. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

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

Eric J. Nguyen - {KG5LDX} - 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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BVARC Monday Night NET Updates

Don't forget the BVARC Monday Night Net starts at **8 pm** on 146.94 (167.9). The order of check-ins starts 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 Mark, mark@mcgrath-co.com, if you are interested. Here are recent check-ins with control-ops:

10/19 - 26 - Ron, k5hm	11/21 - 18 - Clint, kf5hdf	12/28 - 19 - Clint, kf5hdf
10/26 - 18 - Pete, kd5qpx	11/28 - 18 - Terry, k5pgf	1/4/16 - 20 - David, n5ekw
11/2 - 16 - Ron, k5hm	12/7 - 24 - David, n5ekw	1/11 - 18 - Steve, kf5yyv
11/7 - 30 - Pete, kd5qpx	12/14 - 23 - Steve, kf5yyv	1/19 - 22 - Ron, k5hm
11/14 - 22 - Ron, k5hm	12/21 - 25 - Ron, k5hm	1/25 - 24 - Clint, kf5hdf





March 18-19, 2016
houstonhamfest.org

15th Annual

GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST
Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
ARRL South Texas Section Convention
Now! Two Days of Hamfest

Friday, March 18, 2016 – 1 pm – 5 pm
Saturday, March 19, 2016 - 8 am – 3:30 pm
Tailgate Sales start at 7 AM

Fort Bend County Fairgrounds TX-36 Rosenberg, TX

Visit <http://www.houstonhamfest.org> for each day's schedule



Great Tech Sessions all day Saturday



Featured Speaker: Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, Former FCC Top Cop for Spectrum Enforcement and speaker at many Hamfests

Keynote Speaker: Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, Former Editor National Contest Journal (NCJ) and recognized authority on propagation, DX'ing and Contesting

CW Pile Up Contest – How well can you copy code in a pileup?

- **Ham Radio Balloon Launch – To the Edge of Space!**
- **Remote HF Operation Demo**
- **More Sessions to be announced.**
- **Door Prizes Galore! Door Prize ticket included with your entry ticket purchase**

Special Promotion! – Present this Flyer and get 1 extra Door Prize Ticket Free!

Big Prize Raffle Drawing: Tickets \$1 each. Purchased on site.

GRAND PRIZE
To Be Announced

Chairman's Prize
To Be Announced

Saturday Table Sales – Non Commercial Exhibitors - They're going fast!

Table Sales available On-Line: All Tables - \$15

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

<http://www.houstonhamfest.org>

Admissions: Advanced - Pre-paid Tickets until March 14, 2015 - \$8 – includes 2 Door Prize drawing tickets.

At-Door: \$10 – Includes 1 Door Prize drawing ticket. Tailgate: \$5 per vehicle.

Scouts in uniform & Children under 14 Free!



BVARC Rag Chew Net

12/23/15, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, KF5TFJ, W5TOM, N5EKW (Katy), K5IZO, AA5OA, WA5CYI, K5LJ, AA0ST (Dickinson), W5RH, AF5T, KG5IOG (Port Lavaca). (13 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 128, SN = 68, A = 13, K = 2

12/30/15, K5LKJ (NCS), WB5FOP (Katy), AA0ST (Dickinson), AF5T, W5TKZ, KF5OXF (Needville), W5TOM, KF5TFJ, KT5MR (Dickinson), WN5A, W5RH, W5HFF, KG5BMS. (13 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 98, SN = 54, A = 17, K = 1

01/06/16, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, W5HFF, AF5T, K5LJ, N5EKW (Katy), K5IZO, AA5OA, KC5JAR (Katy), KF5TFJ, KG5BMS, AF5XL. (12 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 95, SN = 29, A = 7, K = 2

01/13/16, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, W5HFF, AA5OA, AF5T, K5LJ, KE5OBY, KF5TFJ, WA5CYI, W5RH, KC5JAR (Katy). (11 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 106, SN = 29, A = 14, K = 2

01/20/16, K5LKJ (NCS), WB5FOP (Katy), KF5TFJ, W5TKZ, KB5SDU (Natchitoches, LA), K5LJ, KG5BMS, KE5OBY, AA5OA, W5TOM, AF5T, W5RH, AA0ST (Dickinson), KG5GLX (TIKI ISLAND, TX). (14 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 100, SN = 55, A = 11, K = 5

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

Come join in the conversation each Wednesday evening.

Regards. John K5LKJ



Collins 32S-3 Transmitter, 1962

The Greater Houston Hamfest – A Labor of Love

Submitted by Rick Hiller, W5RH

15 years have gone by since the first BVARC Mix and Match Hamfest. This small ham get together on a BVARC meeting night, has grown into the Greater Houston Hamfest. If you look at all of the people involved with the current GHH you will find that a small group of them were involved with this first Mix and Match in 2002. Since then, more folks have joined in every year to help organize the GHH. I call all of these folks “the core” of the GHH. Of course, there are many others who have donated and volunteered time and effort to make this all work every year, and to them goes a hearty THANK YOU, but it is this core of folks, working all year long, that keeps it all together and moving forward. Why?

Putting on the GHH every year is not easy...there is no Hamfest “Easy Button”. Many, many hours of discussion, writing, web design, telephone calls, e-mail, composing, designing, printing, coordinating, etc. go into the GHH even before we open the doors on that Saturday morning (this year Friday afternoon). For all of this effort, anyone that is involved just might get a thank you, or hear an occasional “job well done” or notice some other token indication of appreciation from some random attendee. For any acknowledgement received, we are ever grateful, but that is all any volunteer gets. There are no salaries or hourly wages to pay. It is strictly volunteer-ism at its’ finest. All of us, taking time away from our family and other personal activities to help promote Ham Radio (our favorite hobby) to the local and regional Ham Radio community. All that with no pay? It really is a Labor of Love.

Come join us this year and add your name to the list of volunteers that help to put on BVARC’s Great Greater Houston Hamfest.



Part of the original crew for the 6th Greater Houston Hamfest (2nd year at the Fairgrounds), 2007

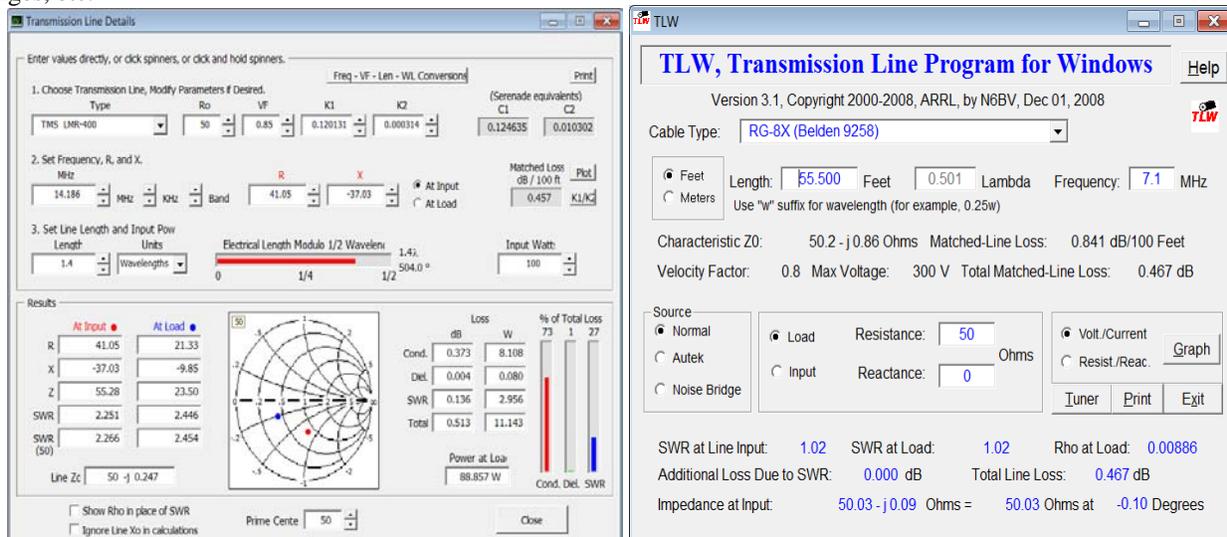
The Radio Hotel - Software Tools for your Feedline

By Rick Hiller -- W5RH

Computers are wonderful. The ability to program them to perform reiterative calculations, that would take quite some time by hand, can now be done, literally, in milli-seconds. Paper, a pencil and a slide rule was the old school method. Thank goodness!

TL's are a mathematician's playground. There is no guess work, it is all exact calculated answers based on initial measurements and characteristics fed into known, foundation equations. The perfect atmosphere for computer programming to lend a hand. TL cables are manufactured for a specific Surge Impedance/characteristic impedance, power handling, velocity factor and have a known capacitance per foot, dielectric loss, etc. Since these quantities are "designed for", the designer uses equations to figure out the manufactured configuration. If all of the design and resultant attributes can be calculated, then a computer program to do all of these calculations is easily coded up. In fact, there are 2 such packages readily available: **TL Details** and **TLW**.

TL Details, by **Dan Maguire, AC6LA**, is shown below at the left. The top half is input data and the bottom half is the result. Many cable type characteristics are pre-loaded so you just pick a type, set the frequency, the length and power and the calculations are dynamically performed. The results show you power, total loss and where that loss occurs, also, the impedance transformation for that particular length of TL, if in an unmatched condition. In addition, a rudimentary Smith Chart is shown for a gross reference on the impedance result. The entry fields have up and down buttons to increase or decrease the values and if you hold them down, the resultant values will change and the Smith Chart will replot in real time. Using this feature you can see very "movie like" changes happening over the TL as the length, the load or the source Z changes, etc.



TLW, the GUI on the right, is from ARRL, written by **Dean Straw, N6BV**. Similar in function to **TL Details**, with no Smith Chart, but an additional function for creating a schematic of a matching network "tuner" in various configurations, i.e. High Pass, Low Pass, etc. Additionally, once you settle on the TL variables you can get a graph plot of the voltage and current excursions on the TL. This is quite helpful when dealing with non-matched lines where the voltages can become quite high and exceed the breakdown voltage of the coax dielectric. **TLW** has a particularly nice HELP file.

Google **TL Details** for download sites. **TLW** is included in the ARRL Antenna Handbook.

GL ES 73 DE W5RH Enjoy your hobby.

Next time.... Antennas -- From Whence They Came, Part 1

*The purpose of **The Radio Hotel** is to give you a practical kickstart into exploring the workings of antenna systems. It is a series, so go back and read the previous columns to get the whole picture, as one month relies on the previous month's information. Google the buzz words and find out what they mean. Read up on antenna system theory to see how it all works together. You will be glad you did.*

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

This newsletter is a monthly publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club. For a full listing of officers and information about BVARC, please go to www.bvarc.org. Detailed information will be published in the newsletter every 3 or 4 months. Similarly, the "Eating Schedule" will be published every 3 or 4 months unless there is a change.

General membership dues are \$25.00 per year, with student dues \$10.00 per year, additional family members \$5.00 per member per year.

Club meetings are normally held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Sugar Land Masonic Lodge, 421 Eldridge Rd, Sugar Land, 77478. Check the above website for any possible changes.

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 281-701-7602 or see the BVARC website: www.bvarc.org

Other contacts include:

President:, Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, n5vcx@att.net

Newsletter Editor, John Chauvin, K5IZO, k5izo@yahoo.com

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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

BVARC General Membership Meeting – Thursday, Feb. 11, 2016



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