



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2017

VOLUME 41 ISSUE 2

BVARC FEBRUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, Feb. 09, 2016 7:30pm. 421 Eldridge

The program for February's meeting will be by Bill Cordell (W5VOM), about locating radio interference. Mr. Cordell has vast experience managing telecom & wireless rooftop sites, through his company Cordell Communications. His presentation will be a hot one, beyond the FCC human exposure limits.

Your suggestions are welcome for club meetings. Let someone know on the board if there is something you would like to know more about or would like a club program on. 73 K5MGJ



Banquet Report

The voice of the Sugar Land Skeeter's - Ira Liebman - was our guest speaker for the annual BVARC Awards Banquet. Ira recounted his (sometimes painful) career moves from home theater systems sales, through the labyrinth of the minor leagues, to the Skeeter's announcer booth. He included some Skeeter's history and recounted their path to the 2016 Atlantic League championship. The banquet was held Friday the 13th at Maggiano's Little Italy, the same a last year. The speaker was great, the food was great (especially the salmon), and the fellowship wonderful. We had an excellent turnout for this annual event. Many kudos to Ron Litt (K5HM) for organizing the festivities on behalf of the club.





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 50 people attending. Attendance was lower than last year but everyone still had a great time. Ira Liebman, the voice of the Skeeters baseball team did a great presentation on his life and its ups and downs. Ira's main message was "don't give up". I appreciate Ira coming out and speaking to the club. 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, setting up banquet and coordinating the door prizes. I want to thank Ron again for his great job.

I also want to thank Rick Hiller, W5RH, who did an excellent job on putting together a video program that played throughout the banquet. Ron had put together the program last year but yours truly forgot to mention it at the banquet. Thanks again Rick.

Mark Janzer, K5MGJ, had a great turnout for the work party at the USS Stewart in Galveston. With the interest we had at the work party, I know we will be up and ready for Museum Ships Weekend in June. Thanks again Mark for your hard work.

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 anyone on the BOD and let them know. There will be several Hamfest meetings coming up so keep checking your e-mail.

Of course after the banquet and Hamfest and Museum ships, that leaves – FIELD DAY! Now is the time to start thinking about field and just what you want to do. A coordinator is still needed so don't be bashful step and volunteer.

Hope to see everyone at the February meeting.

73,
N5VCX



Minutes of the January 7, 2017 Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Club President Mike Hardwick called the regularly scheduled monthly Board of Directors meeting for the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 9:08AM on January 7, 2017. The meeting was held at the Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston, Texas 77074.

Board Members Attending were:

Mike Hardwick N5VCX (President.)
Jon Noxon KF5TFJ (Recording Secretary)
Mark Janzer K5MGJ (Vice President)
Scott Medbury KD5FBA (2yr At-Large Dir)
Jo L Keener KE7NSB (2yr At-Large Dir)

Non-voting attendees:

John Chauvin K5IZO (Parliamentarian)
Ron Litt K5HM (Radio Sport)
Michael Monsour ACØTX (Quartermaster)

A Quorum was established.

Minutes:

1. Call to order
2. No opening statement from Club President
3. No emergency business
4. A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes of the December 2016 meeting as published in the January 2017 Club Newsletter
5. A motion was made and passed to accept the Treasurer's report as distributed in an email from Donovan Balli, Club Treasurer

6 Old Business

6a Hamfest: next organization meeting to be held January 7 following the Board of Directors Meeting

6b Field Day: Club needs to name a coordinator for Field Day; decision on multiclub event TBD; wrap up for 2016 Field Day to be undertaken by N5VCX

6c General Member Ship Meetings:

January 13, 2017 Banquet
February 9, 2017 Locating Radio Interference (planned)
March 9, 2017 HT Programming (proposed)
April 13, 2017 CW by Nizar
May 11, 2017 Museum Ships and something else TBD

6d TBD if Masonic Lodge Contract and check have cleared all hurdles

6e Small work party to prepare for Museum Ships; may include on-air operation for Boy Scouts expected to have spent night on board the ship; coordinated by K5MGJ

6f Testing for Scouts discussed along with possible classes for "Tech in a Day"; TBD

6g Decision on distribution of Club Newsletter (mail or electronic only) place in abeyance pending further analysis

6h Vacant Corresponding Secretary position to be combined with an existing office pending recommendation by K5IZO as to permissibility by Club By-Laws

7 New Business:

All dates for 2017 Board of Directors Meetings have been set as follows

January 7,	July 8
February 4	August 5
March 4	September 9
April 8	October 7
May 6	November 4
June 3	December 9

All dates have been reserved at Bayland Park on Bissonnet. Meetings are open to all and Club Members are encouraged to attend.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 AM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Jon Noxon KF5TFJ



Report of BVARC's preparation for Museum Ships weekend, on board the USS Stewart – Sunday January 15th, 2017.

The day went well, with a mighty thanks to all who showed up! We had 8 BVARCians aboard.

- We were able to remove the broken vertical and trace/test the previously installed coax back to the radio room.
- We also temporarily hung an end fed wire antenna from the open bridge to the flag pole at the bow. We extended a coax feedline through a porthole we opened in the bridge. This antenna was tested and appears to work well.
- We were pleased to find that the coding closet was already cleaned up and organized, and we'll keep it this way. There is a reel of coax there (BVARC's) which we'll retain there for future use (maybe elsewhere or in the Cavalla).
- We tested one of the existing ship's wire antennas, and as a result we're looking to configure a good feedline and connection to it.

On leaving, we took down the temporary antenna and removed the scraps of the broken antenna. We weren't able to retrieve the box of BVARC "junk" that is stored elsewhere on the ship. We'll get that in due course.

For a future visit, we're hoping to install a marine grade VHF/UHF antenna where the broken antenna was removed. We're also looking at how we might add temporarily, either an HF vertical or 80m long wire (say, to the stern) for the MSWE event. We may even try to re-activate the Cavalla, depending on how well we're able to configure and prepare the USS Stewart. We're hoping to have 3 stations on board the ships, for the event. There is also the possibility of stations of ship, in the park (as in the past).

Note that the planned Seawolf RV Park is not yet under construction. Looks like this element will be unavailable for at least this year.

We also want to time our preparation visits better, that we can do radio demos for the scouts. The visit on 1/15, wasn't conducive for a demo, due to the other efforts we made. At least one more preparation visit is planned before the Museum Ships Weekend Event.

Mark Janzer
K5MGJ



**Where in the World is . . .
Mauritania (5T)
CQ Zone 35**



Mauritania . . . Mauritania . . . Mauritania . . . sounds like a make believe land, like Shangri-La or Atlantis or an exotic tropical isle. Doesn't it?

Instead, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania is a desert country (about 90% of its land is part of the Sahara) in West Africa, sandwiched between Western Sahara, Mali and Senegal. In this land slavery flourishes, where about 10-20% of the population lives in slavery. Slavery was officially abolished in 1981 although no laws exist to enforce it. The government maintains that all people are free.



The population of 3.57 million people is nearly all 100% Sunni Muslim. It is largely a tribal culture that changes governments by military coup. During the 19th century, the country was part of the French empire, which temporarily brought order to the land.

Its currency, the Ouguiya is as worthless as it is unpronounceable. The Ouguiya is worth about \$0.0028 USD.

Despite being rich in natural resources, Mauritania has a poor economy. A majority of the population depends on agriculture and livestock for a livelihood. Mauritania has extensive deposits of iron ore, which account for almost 50% of total exports. With the current rises in metal prices, gold and copper mining companies are opening mines in the interior. Oil was discovered in Mauritania in 2001 offshore.



The country's first deep water port opened in 1986. In recent years, drought and economic mismanagement have resulted in a buildup of foreign debt. Mauritania has been described as a "desperately poor desert nation, which straddles the Arab and African worlds and is Africa's newest, if small-scale, oil producer.

There have been a number of DXpeditions operating from Mauritania. 5T is number 136th on the Club Log Most Wanted List.

Reporting from the Dark Side, Ron Litt, K5HM

BVARC Rag Chew Net

Editor's note: Oops re double insertion last month.

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

12/28/16, W5TKZ (NCS), KF5TFJ, W5TOM, K5LJ, KG3JPP, N5EKW (Katy), W5MBH, W5VOM, KF6RV/5 (Mineola), WW5PA, K5LKJ, KE5OBY, W5HFF.
(13 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 73, SN = 14, A = 6, K = 2

01/04/17, K5LKJ (NCS), W1BG (Katy), WW5PA, W5VOM, W5TKZ, KF5TFJ, KC5JAR (Katy), W5HFF, K5IZO, K5LJ, N5EKW (Katy), AF5XL, KG3JPP, W5MHB. (14 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 73, SN = 14, A = 11, K = 2

01/11/17, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TOM, W5TKZ, W5HFF, KF5TFJ, KJ5Y/5, K5IZO, AF5T, KG5BMS, W5VOM, K5LJ, WW5PA, KF5PHA. (13 Check-Ins)
Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 74, SN = 0, A = 10, K = 2

01/18/17, K5LKJ (NCS), KF5TFJ, W5HFF, W5RH/5 (Sabine Town), W5TKZ, K5IZO, W5VOM, WW5PA, KG3JPP, AA0ST (Dickinson), AF5XL, AF5T, KF5PHA. (12 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 81, SN = 29, A = 5, K = 2

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

Beat the Solar Minimum Blues on the BVARC Rag Chew Net.
Come join in the conversation each Wednesday evening.

Regards. John K5LKJ



BVARC Historical Vignettes – Houston SHOT Ham Bash **Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian**

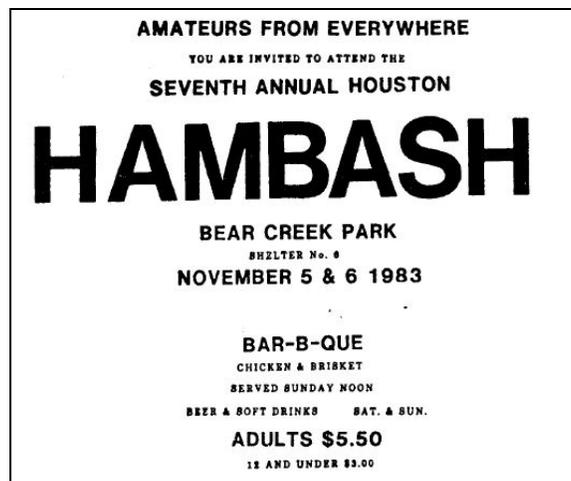
Over the years many members of BVARC have participated in the activities of the Houston SHOT chapter of Ten-Ten International. Over 40 years ago in 1976 the SHOT chapter instituted an annual activity called the Houston SHOT Ham Bash.

The Ham Bash, which was held in Bear Creek Park at Pavilion #4, was a full weekend event much like Field Day. The chapter would set up an HF station and operate from the park on Saturday. Permission to stay overnight and operate after the park closed at 10 PM was obtained.

Some years a raffle was held for a hand held VHF radio or similar item, and occasionally there was also a flea market or small swap fest. At the 1985 Ham Bash I bought a used Kenwood AT-200 antenna tuner that matched my Kenwood TS-520S transceiver. The TS-520S is long gone but I still use the AT-200.

Early Sunday morning at about 7 AM a wood fire would be started in a BBQ pit adjacent to Pavilion #4. The SHOT chapter would buy chickens and brisket, and cook them in the BBQ pit. The price for the food was \$5.50 for adults and \$3 for children under 10 years of age. Over the years there were three different cooks. The names of the first two cooks are lost to history; however, the last cook was Fred Jones, KC5AC.

The last Houston SHOT Ham Bash was held in 1985. It took a great deal of work to put on the event and problems were encountered with park procedures for reserving the large pavilion. A special thank you goes to Mike Davidson, N5MT, chapter head of the Houston SHOT chapter of Ten-Ten International for providing information about the Ham Bash.

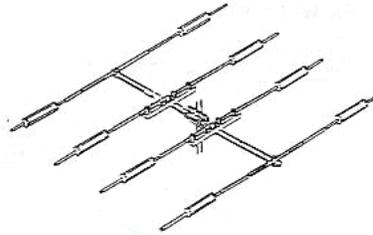


The Radio Hotel- Dissecting Series #1

Inside Those Triband Yagi Traps

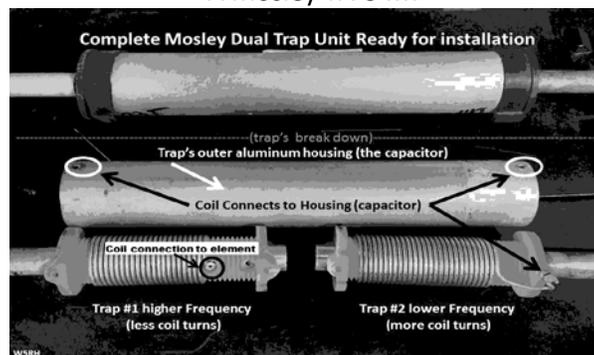
By Rick Hiller -- W5RH

Some things in Ham Radio are obvious, some are not. Such are the cases for this 2017 “Dissecting” Series on some not so obvious, hidden items in the Ham’s cadre of RF objects. A look inside those encased, potted, sealed, multi-layered, “things” we use on a daily basis. First up – Yagi-Uda Traps.

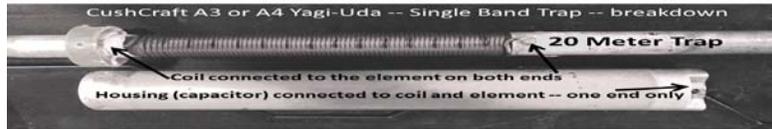


As you drive by that Ham’s property in your neighborhood you always look up and admire the very neat and clean lines of the 4 Element Yagi-Uda “Tri-bander” on her tower. It, however, has something in each element that looks like a much thicker piece of tubing. This is a Trap -- an RF, electrical device that stops RF current from flowing. Some Yagi’s have 2 trap housings, others have 1 housing on each side of each element. Design differences are the reason. So, what is this trap and how is it made?

A Mosley TA-34M



A trap is a parallel resonant circuit (a coil and a capacitor) that is resonant at the frequency which the designer wishes to stop RF current flow. The picture at left, at the top, shows a complete Mosley, 2 trap design. It consists of a single aluminum housing and plastic end caps to keep out the bad weather and, of course, the aluminum tubing that fastens to the main element structure. The aluminum housing is the capacitor -- an integral, electrical part of the trap. At the bottom of the picture you can see two coils normally located inside the aluminum housing. The inner trap #1, a 10 meter trap, would stop any 28 MHz energy from going further out the element. It makes the element from the boom to the trap, on both sides, a resonant antenna for 10 meters. The other coil would be part of the 15 meter trap #2 and then, the full element length would be the 20 meter antenna. Note that the higher frequency traps do add electrical length to the element when frequencies below their designed resonant frequency are encountered.



Another design, i.e. Cushcraft and Hy-Gain, utilize only one trap per housing. Seen in the picture at the right, it is similar to the Mosley trap with an aluminum housing, but it only has one coil, hence it stops RF at only one frequency. On a Cushcraft A4 you will see two trap housings on each element side, one for 10 and one for 15 meters.

The use of traps make multi-band Yagi-Uda's quite popular and abundant, but they have not always been. Have a read of [The Multimatch Antenna System](#) by W3DZZ in the March, 1955 QST about his brilliant idea of a multi-band Yagi-Uda. Enjoy your hobby. GL ES 73 DE W5RH

Next time.... Two Antennas – What's Old is Sort of New Again

*The purpose of **The Radio Hotel** is to give you a practical kickstart into exploring the workings of antenna systems. 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.*



BVARC Monday Night Public Service 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 Rick, w5rh, if you are interested. Here are recent check-ins with control-ops:

10/17 - 17 - Ron, k5hm	11/21 - 15 - Jo, ke7nsb	12/26 - 14 - Clint, kf5hdf
10/24 - 19 - Terry, k5pgf	11/28 - 23 - Clint, kf5hdf	1/2/17 - 16 - Jimmy, w5ztx
10/31 - 19 - Jo, ke7nsb	12/5 - 13 - Ron, k5hm	1/9/17 - 21 - Steve, kf5yyz
11/7 - 19 - Dave, k5ekw	12/12 - 15 - Steve, kf5yyz	1/16/17 - 16 - Jo, ke7nsb
11/14 - 15 - Steve, kf5yyz	12/19 - 14 - Jo, ke7nsb	1/23/17 - 23 - Clint, kf5ndf

BVARC QUICK STATS

Date	Members	Newsletters	Life Members
1/24/17	188	190	67



**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, 2017 at HCC Southwest College Stafford Campus - Scarcella Building here in Stafford, TX

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Larry A. Jacobsen, K5LJ
John Moore, KK5NU
George Ontko, KM5VP

Six examination elements were administered during the evening to five applicants. Two new Technician class licenses; one upgrade to General class and two upgrades to Amateur Extra were attained, with the total number of elements passed being 6. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

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

Michael E. Daugherty	-		- Technician
Terry W. Hanks	-	KG5RBD	- Amateur Extra
Darin W. Lance	-		- Technician
Lawrence A. Nix	-	KC5BQT	- Amateur Extra
James W. Weathers, III	-	KG5RBE	- 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 Southwest College Stafford Campus - Scarcella Building for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

... 73 ...



2017 Officers:

President

Michael Hardwick, N5VCX
n5vcx@att.net

Vice President

Mark Janzer K5MGJ
k5mgj@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary

Jon Noxon KF5TFJ
jon@noxon.cc

Corresponding Secretary
Open

Treasurer

Donovan Balli, KG5BDZ
dballi@mail.com

2 Year At-Large Board

Jo Keener – KE7NSB
jo.l.keener@juno.com

2 Year At-Large Board Member B:

Scott Medbury KD5FBA
smedbury@windstream.net

1 Year At Large

JP (Richard) Pritchard KG5MBG
jppnews@comcast.net

Regularly Scheduled 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, 10:00 AM (For Sept., check website)
Bayland Park Community Center
Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet,

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

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

Advertising in the BVARC Newsletter

Rates are as follows; \$25 per month for ½ page, \$125 for six months and \$250 for one year. The rates for a full page are as follows; \$50 per month, \$250 for six months and \$500 for the year.



BVARC EATING SCHEDULE

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

IHOP, 7:00a.m., SW Freeway inbound service road, near Kirkwood.

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>

02/25/2017 | Orange Hamfest 2017

Location: Orange, TX

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Orange ARC and Jefferson Co. ARC

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

03/10-11/2017 | Rayne Hamfest

Location: Rayne, LA

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Acadiana Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://www.w5ddl.org/hamfest/index.htm>

03/11/2017 | HamEXPO

Location: Belton, TX

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Temple Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.TARC.org/hamexpo/>

03/24-25/2017 | Texas State Convention (Greater Houston Hamfest)

Location: Rosenberg, TX

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

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



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

Newsletter Printing, Assembly and Mailing, Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, k5cam@arrl.net

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

BVARC General Membership Meeting – Thursday, February 9



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