



The BVARC BEACON



Newsletter of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

OCTOBER 2017

VOLUME 41 ISSUE 10

BVARC OCTOBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, October 12, 2017, 7:30pm, 421 Eldridge Rd., Sugar Land, TX

As this issue goes to press, the subject of the featured presentation is not known.
Please check the website and check the Reflector for updates.



Report on the September General Membership Meeting

Jon Noxon, KF5TFJ, did a presentation on DMR Radio. He discussed, with show-n-tell, this digital technique.



Future Meetings

Upcoming meetings include:

- November – Chili Supper and Elections
- December – Homebrew night.
- January – Awards Banquet (in lieu of the regular meeting)

See some details herein and in the next BEACON.



Home Brew/Makers Night in December!

Which of the following is NOT an electronic construction technique commonly used in amateur radio projects?

- 1) Dead Bug
- 2) Through Hole
- 3) Surface Mount
- 4) Gangnam Style
- 5) Point-to-point

The answer will be published next month's BVARC Beacon. In the meantime, get your project ready for Home Brew/Makers Night, our December program. This is a popular event, with a prize to the winner. This year we plan to have a jury select the winner, based on factors such as originality, craftsmanship, utility, and downright cleverness. The prize: how about a \$100 gift certificate?

The Prez Says

What an incredible, crazy six weeks we have had. Houston has experienced some of the worst flooding ever as well as affecting areas that have never flooded. I hope that is the end of it for the year and hopefully it will never happen again. Many club members were affected by the flooding getting anywhere from a few inches of water in their home up to 7 feet. Hopefully everyone is getting things cleaned up and getting the hard part behind them. If you have a ham radio related Hurricane Harvey story, send it to John, K5IZO for the newsletter.

I want to thank Scott Medbury, KD5FBA and family for their hard work on the August Ice Cream Social. This annual event is always a treat for everyone and this year was no different with nearly 70 people attending. Scott has worked hard several events and this one was no exception. Thanks again Scott.

I also want to thank Jon Noxon, KF5TFJ, for last month's meeting program – DMR Radio 101. As the new digital formats become more popular, getting the information out on how it works is a must. Hopefully Jon will be up to a DMR Radio 102 will be in the works soon. Now we need someone to step up for P25 or even TETRA. Any takers?

Elections are coming in November. If you are interested in becoming a board member, contact Rick Hiller, W5RH and let him know. Rick is working tirelessly on getting candidates for the election and he needs a few volunteers. Remember, without your help taking care of the club, the club will die.

Besides the elections in November, the annual chili supper will be held. If you like to contribute some of your best chili (with or without beans), let Rick Hiller, W5RH, know. I know there are several of you that have a chili recipe that you want to try so now is the time to start planning and getting your cooking skills going.

Several years ago Kevin Foto, KD5O, started something called Homebrew night. Since then, the program has become an annual event for BVARC with many club members getting involved. If you are interested in showing off your homemade receiver or transmitter, let Jon Noxon, KF5TFJ know that you would like to show it off for Homebrew night in December.

I know the program is still being worked on for the October meeting so stay tuned to the web site and the Monday night Net.

73,
N5VCX



Annual Awards Banquet – January 12, 2018

Pencil Friday, January 12th 2018 into your calendar for the BVARC Annual Awards Banquet. The venue, the menu and a couple of special speakers are being finalized, but I promise, you won't want to miss this one. More details to be revealed in November's newsletter.

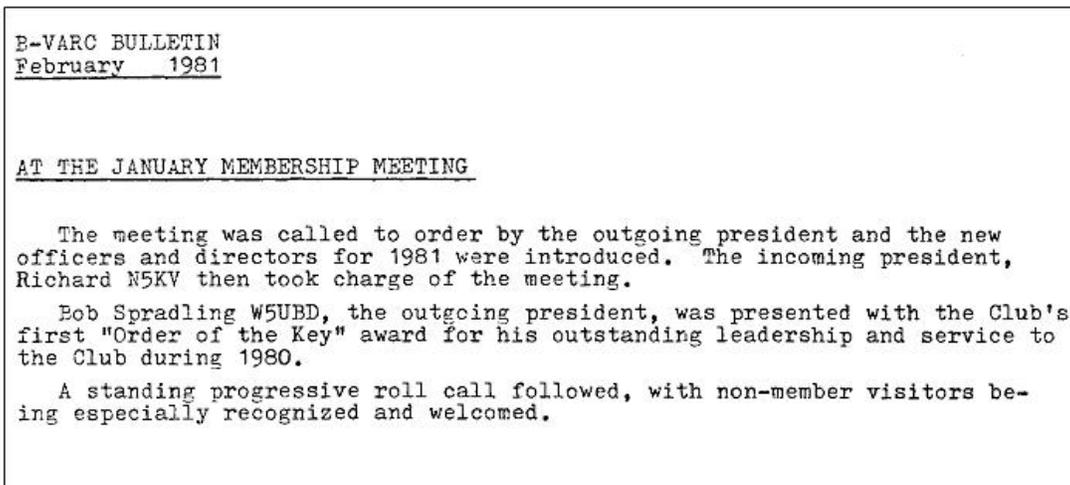
Rick – W5RH

BVARC Historical Vignettes – BVARC’s Standing Roll Call

Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

Have you ever wondered how the custom of having a standing roll call at the BVARC general membership meetings originated? The custom was already established when I joined BVARC in September 1985. The early club newsletters from before that time do not provide much information about what occurred at general membership meetings.

The club was formed in September 1977 and the club newsletters indicate that the standing roll call at general membership meetings was already established in January 1981. The February 1981 B-VARC Bulletin actually contained minutes of the January 1981 general membership meeting. The minutes of the club meeting, written by the club secretary Phil Steinbach, WB5SUR, mention a “standing progressive roll call.”



The standing roll call clearly dates back to the earliest years of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.



Did you make at least one QSO in the Texas QSO Party?

Do you know that BVARC has supported the Texas QSO Party in several ways in past years:

- Many members participate in the Event
- Many members spend two days operating mobile and “activate” some of the rarer counties.
- Many members have stations located in other counties where the either go to operate or operate them remotely.
- BVARC has financially supported the event to help assure that nice plaques are presented.



Did you know that if you made one QSO and another member made 500 QSOs, each of you have shown support and each of you count as an individual participant.

So now, do one last thing: Officially submit your log to TX QSO Party. You can either do this on-line or they will also take paper logs submitted by snail mail. It’s simple; Get the instructions at www.txqp.net

The Radio Hotel - Broadbanding, Nittany Lions Style

by W5RH

Trying to attain a fairly flat 50 Ohm SWR response across each of our ham bands is a mixed bag. Narrow bands like 12 meters or 17 meters are easy. Even 20 meters can be done; but when you deal with 80/75 meters you run into high SWR at the ends of a the bands when the dipole's matched resonance is at the center of the band (figure 1). This dilemma of flattening the swr curve across the whole 80 meter band has been bugging the heck out of low banders for years. Many have developed systems to accomplish it. The goal is to obtain the low SWR curve, but keep the antenna efficient.

Figure 1

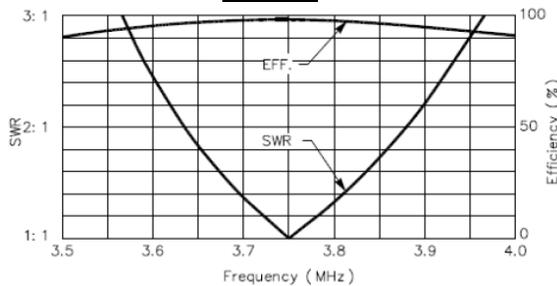
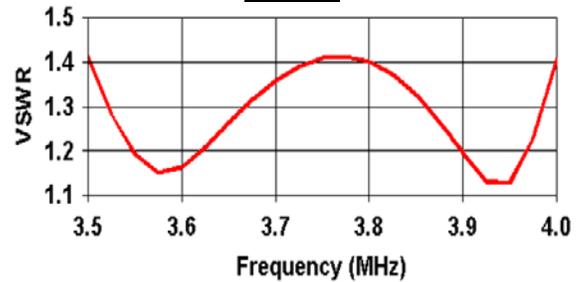


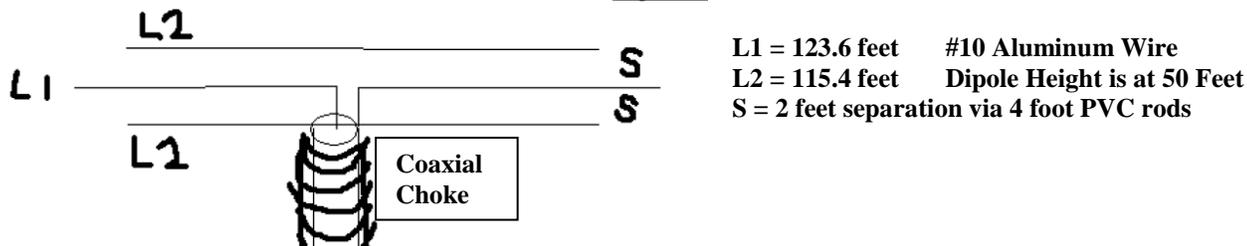
Figure 2



As I said, solutions are many. For example: the cage (thick) dipole, the coax cable bazooka, the multi-wire fan dipole, the Snyder and even the TTFD, etc. (Google them all for a look at their methodologies). One recent method I ran across was invented and implemented at Penn State University, home of the Nittany Lions (and college days home to 2017 GHH Featured Speaker and Dayton Antenna Forum Coordinator - K3LR). This broadband method (SWR result – see Figure 2) was presented by Jim Breakall, WA3FET, at the 2016 Dayton Hamvention Antenna Forum and can be had for your perusal at www.k3lr.com/Dayton/Dayton2016/wa3fet.pdf.

The Nittany Lions' method uses wires strung as shown in **Figure 3**. Essentially, running close-spaced wires parallel to the driven/resonant dipole element.

Figure 3



This method is similar to the Coupled-Resonator Principle for multiband, resonant dipole implementations outlined in The ARRL Antenna Compendium #5 by K9AY. The closely spaced, multi-banding scheme feeds one dipole (usually the lowest in freq) and then another higher frequency dipole, or dipoles, are brought in close proximity to this driven element and when the proper distance is met for the coupled dipole, a low SWR point for that additional band appears. InnovAntennas, out of the UK, is using this feed methodology for their line of multiband Yagi's and dipoles.

Note: The K3LR web site (www.K3LR.com) has an archive of all of the presentations from the Dayton Hamvention Antenna Forum from 2004 to 2016. Check it out. The Dayton Hamvention Antenna Forum is one good reason to make it to Dayton 2018 – actually a bit east of Dayton – in Xenia, OH.

Enjoy your hobby. 73.....Rick – The Radio Hotel

Next Time – Recent Trends in Yagi-Uda Designs

*The purpose of **The Radio Hotel** is to give you a practical kick start 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.*



MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

September 9, 2017 9:00 AM
Bayland Park Community Center
6400 Bissonnet, Houston, Texas

Board Members Present:

Mike Hardwick N5VCX (President.)
Jon Noxon KF5TFJ (Rec. & Cors. Secretary)
Scott Medbury KD5FBA (2yr @ Lg Dir)

JP Pritchard K5JPP (1yr @ Lg Dir)

Non-voting attendees:

Rick Hiller W5RH
Micheal Monsour AC0TX

A business quorum was established.

Recorded by Jon Noxon, KF5TFJ Recording Secretary

- 6) Call to Order: The President called for order at 9:02 AM.
- 7) Establishment of Quorum: A business quorum was established.
- 8) Approval of Agenda: A motion made and seconded to approve the agenda without discussion.
4. Club President's Opening Statement: The President thanked those present for attending the meeting.
5. Emergency Business: 1) Club meeting for Thursday is without a program; KF5TFJ volunteered to do a program on DMR. 2) Members affected by Harvey TBD.
6. Approve Minutes from Previous BOD Meeting: The Board approved the minutes for the August meeting without dissent.
7. Approve Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer was unable to produce a financial report. No action taken.
8. Old Business:
 - 8a. Greater Houston Hamfest Meeting to be held following this BOD meeting. However a few ideas were batted around by the board, with no conclusion reached.
 - 8b. General Membership Meetings scheduled as follows, with topics not listed to be determined:
 - September 14 No topic at this time, but see Item 5.
 - October 12 A topic is yet to be revealed; FH may do a presentation on the history of the Yagi antenna.
 - November 9 Chili Supper and Elections. RH to handle elections. JN to provide an analysis of Board slots we need to vote upon to the BOD and RH. Supper coordination still open.
 - December 14 Home Brew/Maker's Night. Hosted by JN.
 - 8c. Extra key to the Masonic Lodge has been picked up. SM is in possession of the new key. JN to a key-holder, taking over from PS. Also discussed were issues related to club storage at the Lodge to hold projector and etc.
 - 8d. Club donations to the Undersea Warfare Center in support of Museum Ships activities was discussed, and included purchase of an automatic remote antenna tuner (to be retained by BVARC for possible use at other Club events), and funding a split a/c unit for the USS Stewart Radio Room. The decision is deferred to a latter date when our club liaison is present.
 - 8e. Status of any actions resulting from August BOD meeting regarding Emergency Business (people locked in sub)
9. New Business: We need to determine a speaker for the Awards Banquet and determine nominations for various awards. JPP perhaps to do the banquet talk about his 30 years in broadcasting.
10. Next BOD meeting dates:
 - October 7, November 4, December 9 and January 6, 2018
11. Comments: Nothing of substance
12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM.

Elections for the Board of Directors 2018 and 2019

Call for Candidates

The November 9th meeting brings food and voting to the forefront of BVARC meeting activity. The voting part is an annual event held to elect the next members of the **BVARC Board of Directors** – the folks who run the club. In November, we will be voting for the offices of:

President
Recording Secretary
2 Year-At-Large Member

Also, Ancillary Parliamentary elections for
Recording Secretary for 2 Months – Nov. and Dec. 2017
Corresponding Secretary for Nov. and Dec. 2017 thru Dec. 2018

If you would like to participate on the Board and be a candidate for one of these officers, contact me at rickhiller73@gmail.com or call or text at **832-474-3713**

Chili Supper – November 9th Meeting

The November meeting brings food and voting to the forefront of BVARC meeting activity. The eating part is the **Annual Chili Supper**. Cook up a crock pot of your favorite chili and bring it to the meeting to be shared by all in attendance. You never know, you might just win one of two nice prizes.

BVARC supplies the AC outlets, bowls, plastic utensils, condiments, napkins, drinks and ice.

Should you wish to bring complementary food such as:

stuffed jalapenos, desert, chopped onions, shredded cheese, TUMS, etc.

Please, let me know at:

rickhiller73@gmail.com or call or text at **832-474-3713**.

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Contact: Rick Hiller – W5RH rick@tavco.net cell:713-591-4792



BVARC Rag Chew Net

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

08/30/17, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, KD5O, KF5TFJ, N5EKW, W5TKZ, W5HFF (R), W5RH, WW5PA, K8DIJ, W5VOM.
(11 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 89, SN = 35, A = 10, K = 0

09/06/17, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, W5HFF (R), K5IZO, W5VOM, KF5TFJ, KJ5Y, W5FMH (CLUB), KG5QQI
(Cyprus), KC5JAR. (10 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 139, SN = 122, A = 12, K = 2

09/13/17, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, KF5TFJ, W5TOM, W5TKZ, W5VOM, AF5XL, KD5CDM.
(8 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 76, SN = 11, A = 18, K = 2

09/20/17, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, W5TOM, KF5TFJ, W5RH, KJ5Y, W5FMH (CLUB), W5VOM, K8DIJ
(9 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 72, SN = 11, A = 8, K = 1

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

Net conditions have been Fair to Good this month. Don't be afraid.

Come join in the conversation each Wednesday evening. Regards. John K5LKJ

Regards. John K5LKJ

On the Air at...“The Right Time”

Submitted by Rick Hiller, W5RH

This is a portion of an article, “Surfing the Grey and Dark Lines” by Steve Ireland, VK6VZ that appeared in the Spring 2017 FOCUS magazine from the FOC – First Class Operators club. It is excellent information for those of us new or old Hams who wish to work HF. There is always something to be learned about shortwave propagation that will add to our on air enjoyment.

The Right Time – Steve Ireland – VK6VZ

Quite a lot of licensed radio amateurs or shortwave listeners operate on the shortwave bands without much thought as to what directions signal are coming from or going to. A lot of us have only a few hours available each week to pursue our hobby and simply switch on and take the chance to work whatever we are hearing on the radio at that particular time. This method is rather hit and miss and can lead to disappointment.

If you are, primarily, a daytime radio operator, the upper shortwave bands can be lots of fun, for DX, during the local winter period. But, during summer, are often only open for intra-continental traffic, particularly during years of low sunspot activity. Similarly, those who are night owls can find the upper shortwave bands lots of fun during the summer, but pretty dead in the winter, especially, once again, when there are few sunspots.

There is another important, even more obvious, propagation pattern to be aware of – obvious even to someone who has only listened on the shortwave bands for a few weeks. As a rule of thumb, those bands below 10 MHz come alive during the hours of darkness, while those above 10 MHz are best during daylight.

There are only two periods of the day when DX is regularly heard or worked on both the low and high HF bands, at any time of the year and at (almost) any phase of the sunspot cycle. Yes, you guessed it – at around your local sunrise and sunset.

If there are only a few hours each week that you can get on the air, making it around these times is going to bring you the most interesting DX results all year round.

After being on the air for almost thirty years, I can tell you that the vast majority of my radio activity is the periods before, during and just after sunrise or sunset -- in the time when propagation is often termed “Grey Line”. (end) VK6VZ



Where in the world is . . .

Due to Hurricane Harvey effects, this article will resume in upcoming months when reasonable.



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:

6/19 - 16 - Jo, ke7nsb	7/24 - 16 - Dave, k5ekw	8/28 - Harvey
6/26 - 28 - Clint, kf5ndf	7/31 - 14 - Terry, k5pgf	9/4 - 9 - Jo, ke7nsb
7/3 - 18 - Dave, k5ekw	8/7 - 20 - Dave, k5ekw	9/11 - 22 - Luke, k0ltb
7/10 - 21 - Rick, W5RH	8/14 - no net	9/18 - 14 - Jo, ke7nsb
7/17 - 7 - Jo, ke7nsb	8/21 - 10 - Jo, ke7nsb	9/26 - 10 - Clint, kf5ndf

BVARC QUICK STATS

Date	Members	Newsletters	Life Members
9/26/17	189	186	67



Hamfests

(typically within 200 miles of Houston)

Hamfest info for the next few months. More information at: <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html#listing>

10/07/2017 | [HamEXPO](#)

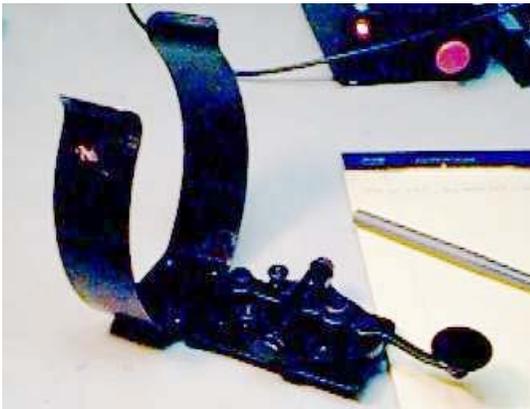
Location: Belton, TX
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Temple Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://tarc.org/hamexpo/>

01/13/2018 [Radio Fiesta](#)

Location: Schertz (Near San Antonio), TX
ARRL Affiliated Event
Sponsor: San Antonio Radio Clubn
Website: <http://w5sc.org/radio-fiesta.html>



Do you know what this is?



The J45 key is fairly common-- it's actually a J37 key mounted on a spring steel leg clamp for use on aircraft, in tanks, etc. This one is marked J45 on the leg band, stamped J37 on the base of the key, and carries the inscription "SC480A" in red on the back of the leg clamp. The key is black, with a brass finish. Shown here, the key is hinged for use on a desk-- it flips over for use when clamped on the operator's leg.

From N1FN Key Collection

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The BEACON 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 and the Eatomg Schedule will be published in The BEACON every 3 or 4 months or when 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 amateur radio testing is being reorganized. Check upcoming newsletters or the BVARC website for developments.

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

NOTE: Officers, advertising and eating schedule are on the website. They will only be published in the Newsletter every few months.

VOLUME 41, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2017

**BRAZOS VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 2997
SUGAR LAND, TX 77487-2997
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

BVARC General Membership Meeting – Thursday, October 12, 2017



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