



# BVARC BEACON



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

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FEBRUARY 2019

VOLUME 43 ISSUE 2

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## BVARC FEBRUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, February 14. at 7:30 p.m. at the Sugar Land Masonic Lodge, 421 Eldridge Rd, Sugar Land, 77478.

John Mccolly, W5RQ will be giving a presentation on his Taongi Atoll IOTA DXpedition. John will be talking about and showing us the "great time" he had during his DXpedition and all the finer points of the trip. He is rather proud of the solutions he came up with gaining access to Kwajalein. John did his presentation at KARS and it was well received.

So make sure you make it to the February meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Lets have a crowd at the meeting and show KARS just what we can do!

N5VCX



## BVARC sponsored FCC Amateur Radio Licensing Exams

The restart of BVARC testing will begin on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup> (**Note the date change**) at 10:30 am at Bayland Park (off Bissonnet). Please contact Mark Janzer at K5MGJ@yahoo.com, for being added on to the list of available Volunteer Examiner's, or if you are a candidate for a new or upgraded license.

The testing will be monthly, on this date (for now) at Bayland Park. We'll also have testing at the Greater Houston Hamfest in March. One of the reasons we've moved the testing date and location, is this coincides with the monthly board meeting (and Hamfest meeting).

See, also, the ARRL.org website: <http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>



## **BVARC Awards Banquet – January 18, 2019**

58 folks were in attendance at the Pappadeaux Seafood Restaurant a few Friday evenings ago. As typical, a loud and active social hour, before the meal serving started, was enjoyed by all. The food was typical Pappadeaux's excellent -- seafood and chicken entre's. Wait service was top notch as last year.

After the meal we were treated to JP giving away the door prizes. He actually gave away a door HI HI Scott, KD5FBA, provided 2 bottles of wine; Rick, W5RH, provided a set of his vacuum tube book ends and two stand-alone vacuum tube displays. The club provided 3 giftcards of \$25, \$25 and 50.

Tom Fontaine, our guest speaker was up next and he provided an enjoyable look into the life of a professional wrestler. Tom is on KNTH 1070 AM in the morning here in Houston. I would assume that radio work is much easier on the body than wrestling. HI

Awards followed a 2018 Slide show review and the South Texas Balloon Launch Team lead the awards line up with their Dr. Joe Taylor Award for their work in the VHF/UHF spectrum. Mark Janzer, K5MGJ, received the Loop and Zepp Award for is work with getting the HF bands happening with the Museum Ships activity. Donovan Bali, KG5BDZ, was not present for his reception of the club wide Order of the Key. If a club treasurer deserves the OotK, it is Donovan. 6 years Treasurer. Congratulations to all of the awardees.



### **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 nearly 60 people attending. Attendance was lower than last year, but everyone still had a great time. Tom Fontaine, local radio personality and retired professional wrestler, did a great presentation on his life in and out of the ring as well as the finer points of the radio broadcast industry. I am glad survived all the throws and slams over the years and was able to come out with only a few "minor" injuries. Both the club and I appreciate Tom coming out and speaking to the club.

I want to thank Rick Hiller, W5RH, for his help as the banquet coordinator. Rick did a great job contacting and coordinating everything with Pappadeaux's restaurant. Rick went out of way to make sure there we had real "door" prize this year as well as other prizes. Rick also put together a great Power Point presentation on "BVARC - 2018 in Review". When you see Rick at the general meetings make sure you thank him for a great job.

And for his excellent oratory skills for presenting awards and introductions, I thank JP Prichard, K5JPP. JP does a wonderful job and I am grateful for his contribution to the club.

The awards banquet had several winners this year. The Dr. Joe Taylor Award went to the South Texas Balloon Launch Team for all their work on the VHF and UHF bands. Without them, everybody would be just talking on the ground!

The Loop and Zepp award was presented to Mark Janzer, K5MGJ. Mark has help promote HF operations through the Museum Ships event for the last several years. Each year keeps bringing in more activity on the HF bands and that is what the hobby needs. Thank you, Mark, for your hard work.

Finally is the Order of the Key. BVARC's highest and most prestigious award is not given lightly and is only presented to the club member whose service and commitment to the club had been exceptional and outstanding. Donovan Bali, KG5BDZ, had been that person through his work as club treasurer and club member. Donovan has worked tirelessly on keeping BVARC's financial world straight and correct. I want to thank Donovan for his great job over the last 4 years.

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

After the HamFest, we will have Museum ships and Field Day. Now is the time to start thinking about just what you want to do at either event. If you would like to help at Museum ships, contact Mark Janzer, K5MGJ. If you would like to help on Field Day, contact any one on the Board of Directors.

73,  
N5VCX



## Two Things to do in April

- 1) File your tax return.
- 2) Participate in Arduino 101 during the General Membership meeting on April 11.

Can't help with number 1, but Arduino 101 will feature you, the club members, learning about the Arduino, and doing so with a few hand-on activities in programming to enhance your appreciation of these little marvels. This informative presentation probably won't make you an expert, but you will have some fun learning about the little jewels, and for the paltry sum of four bucks, you will have one to take home and play with.

What's an Arduino you say? It is a user friendly series of microcontroller boards developed in Italy, based on the AVR ATMEGA family of chips. They were originally developed to teach kids, but since become very popular in the maker's community. The American Radio Relay League has two books in print with projects using the Arduino for ham radio stuff, and new project appear frequently in QST. The November 2018 issue of QST has a cover featuring a Dummy Load/Wattmeter using the Arduino Nano (that's the board you get to keep).

Sign up for an Arduino by sending an email to [jon@noxon.cc](mailto:jon@noxon.cc) stating your desire to get one! In addition, you will need to bring your laptop computer to the meeting along with a mini-USB cable. See the January 2019 *BEACON* for details (available on the BVARC website in the archives).

If you choose not to participate, come anyway to encourage those who do!

Submitted by Jon Noxon, KF5TFJ

**Where in the World is . . .  
Western Sahara (S0)  
CQ Zone 33**



No, not Best Western Sahara, it is really Western Sahara.

Formerly Spanish Morocco, it is disputed territory on the West Coast of Africa, roughly Southeast of the Kingdom of Morocco. Occupied by Spain since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Spanish relinquished control of the area in 1975. Since then, two thirds of the country has been claimed by Morocco as part of what is calls the Southern Provinces.

A war then erupted between Morocco and the Sahrawi national liberation movement, who proclaimed the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR). Morocco eventually secured effective control of most of the territory, including all the major cities and natural resources.

Western Sahara's economy is based almost entirely on fishing and phosphate mining which employs two thirds of its work force.

A largely Saharan desert landscape and climate, 40% the country's population of roughly 500,000 live in the city of Laâyoune near the Atlantic Ocean.

Ham Radio is still in its infancy here. QRZ.com reports only 5 licensed call signs including S01WS, which belongs to the Sahrawi Amateur Radio Union URS.



According to Club Log, Western Sahara is the 73<sup>rd</sup> most wanted DX entity.

**Reporting from the Dark Side,  
Ron Litt, K5HM**



### **BVARC Rag Chew Net**

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

12/26/18, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, K2MPP, AA5OA (Fort Smith, AR), K5LJ, WA5CYI, W5RH, W5VOM. (8 Check-Ins) / Band Rpt: Fair / Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 68, SN = 0, A = 4, K = 1

01/02/19, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, K5JPP, K5IZO, K5LJ, W5VOM, AA5OA (Fort Smith, AR), KG5WPE, KF5ONT, KJ5Y (RCS)(W5FMH/club) (Angleton). (8 Check-Ins) / Band Rpt: Fair / Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 75, SN = 13, A = 5, K = 0

01/09/19, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, W5VOM, W5TKZ, W5TOM, K5LJ, WB4KTF (Austin), K5IZO, W5RH, WA5ANF (T), AA5OA (Fort Smith, AR). (12 Check-Ins) / Band Rpt: Fair / Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 70, SN = 0, A = 6, K = 0

01/16/19, K5LKJ (NCS), W1BG, W5TOM, N5OJB (Gonzales), WW5PA, W5TKZ, K5LJ, K5IZO, W5RH, W5VOM, WA5ANF (T), KA5QQA, KJ5Y (RCS)(W5FMH/club) (Angleton), AA5OA (Fort Smith, AR), WB4KTF (Austin), K2MPP. 17 Check-Ins) / Band Rpt: Fair, Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 69, SN = 0, A = 5, 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. Improve your knowledge.  
Come join in the conversation each Wednesday evening. Regards. John K5LKJ

## The Great Harvey Wells Caper Part 1

It was April in New York City. I was on my way home from the regular weekly breakfast with the Queens County Bagel, Bowling and Spark Club.

These were the halcyon days of kid-dom on the cusp of adulthood. I had my General Class ticket now for about two years. Got my acceptance letter from college and it was six months before anybody would hear of Sputnik. Life was good.

As I walked home from the bus stop, I was thinking about getting on the air today and rolling up a few new states for my WAS. I needed South Dakota and my old buddy Ralph from the QCBB&SC said there were only three active hams in the whole state. I could see that South Dakota was going to be a real challenge.

I climbed the front steps two at a time, walked through the front door and headed directly for my basement ham shack. I am halfway down the hall when I hear my old man say, "Where are you going?"

Any kid who has reached the age of five, immediately recognizes the peril in that question. It's not a question really, it more a combination of Red Alert, General Quarters and Take Cover simultaneously.

I turned around to see the old man advancing toward me. He was upset. I tried to think of anything I did or failed to do in the last twenty-four hours. I aced my Physics quiz, took out the trash last night, and didn't leave any wet towels in the bathroom; check, check, check.

He was about two feet away when he stopped, thrust a letter in front of me and said, "What's this?" His hand was shaking so much, I couldn't read the envelope at first but it looked very important. Eventually, the oscillation decayed enough for me to see better. It was one of those business window envelopes with no stamp. The top right-hand corner of the envelope contained the words, *U.S. Government Official Business!*

The old man was really wound up; like a pressure cooker ready to explode. He'd lived his life avoiding entanglements with authority. He was 4-F for the draft in WWII, voted at least once in every election and was an associate member of the Police Benevolent Association. Any unexpected things that had to do with "Official Business" made him very nervous.

Desperately, I tried to think of something that would get him in such a lather. I had gotten my draft card six weeks ago. Maybe this was the dreaded, "Greetings from Uncle Sam" letter. Then I noticed the return address; *Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC.*

I stopped breathing. The FCC! This was worse than getting drafted. Looking through the window of the envelope I could see the paper inside. A pink ticket!

The envelope was torn open. At the top of the page, I could see the words, *Notice of Violation!* He'd already read it and assumed the worst; a life sentence for me at Leavenworth. I was doomed!

Flight was the only response I had. I grabbed the letter and ran for the basement. I read and re-read the notice several times. Cold sweat was dripping off me.

The letter said that my signal had been observed operating at a frequency out of the band at such and such time and date. It demanded I explain what happened. That I take immediate steps to prevent this from happening in the future and that I report those steps to the FCC within 30 days. No wonder the old man was upset. Single handedly, I had brought the wrath of the entire federal government down on our home.

I pulled out my log and started flipping pages; hoping this was a mistake. Some other guy with a similar call sign, maybe. The time in the letter was around 2 AM. Was the FCC really awake that late?

I ran my thumb down the logbook pages slowly, hoping against hope. Yikes! There it was. At the alleged hour, I had been on the air. What could I do? "The old man was right, you're going to Leavenworth", said the voice in my head.

That night I'd logged several calls to DX stations who were calling CQ on the other side of the 20 meter band edge. The last entry in the log that night was a guy in VK-land that I had finally managed to work. I was so excited, I almost woke the old man out of a sound sleep to tell him. I must have strayed too close to the band edge!

Maybe I'll just throw myself on the mercy of the court. *"Your honor, I'm just a kid. I didn't know I was committing a crime." "I fell in with a bad crowd; they dared me to do it!"*

In a panic, I called my old buddy Ralph on the land line. Ralph was a charter member of the QCBB&SC. He knew everything about ham radio. He had been a ham so long that he said Marconi was his Elmer.

After an eternity of rings, he answered. Without giving him a chance to say hello, I unloaded on Ralph in one single breath. When I finally finished, Ralph calmed me down and assured me that I was not going to Leavenworth. "Yeah kid (everyone was a kid to Ralph), I got my first pink ticket in '36", he said softly, as if someone were listening.

What a relief! My old buddy Ralph, the greatest Elmer of all time had gotten at least a couple pink tickets and he was still walking around a free man. There was a ray of hope for me!

I could swear he was grinning on the other side of the phone. The voice in my head said, "Yeah, they'll probably confiscate all your radio gear instead."

It was only two years earlier that I went to the FCC offices in Manhattan to take my General exam under the watchful eye of Lurch, the examiner. I still remember the big bullpen where the FCC guys worked. They were all dressed alike too; white shirts rolled up to the elbow, black ties and black pants. It was the official FCC uniform. I didn't know what would be worse; just quietly going off to Leavenworth or having a squad of FCC men in black show up at my house in front of all the neighbors!

"Listen kid", he began; his voice had a way of piercing through the QRM in my head. "You just need an accurate marker for the band edge. A crystal calibrator. You can pick one up at Harrison Radio for about ten bucks."

I could hear Ralph take a deep breath. He'd been a chain smoker for twenty years, so his inhale had a signature wheeze, just like a good CW operator's fist.

Then he continued, "The dial markings on your VFO ain't worth the plastic they're printed on kid. So, when you are chasing DX, don't get any closer than three kc to the band edge marker, no matter what."

"Hey Ralph", I said "What about the letter I have to write? What should I say?" Ralph started in again, "Listen kid, just tell them the truth, you'll be fine. See you later kid." And then there was a click.

I sat for a long time; thinking. The U.S. phone band ended at 14200 KC. Most of the good DX was always just below that great divide. We worked split back then, running full carrier double sideband AM, pushing as close to the band edge as we dared, calling for that rare station we needed.

I wasn't willing to give up a whole three kc of band, if I didn't need to do it. Maybe I could just turn down the mike gain. Just listening to twenty meters some nights it was easy to see how everybody pushed the limit. Still, I was willing to do or say anything get back in the old man's good graces and the FCC off my back! Finally, the beginnings of a diabolical plan began to form in my head. If I played my cards right, I would solve my FCC problem and then some.

To be continued

**Reporting from the Dark Side,  
Ron Litt, K5HM**

Greater Houston Hamfest



18th Annual

March 23rd, 2019

# GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST 2019 ARRL



## Texas State Convention

**Admission : Advanced \$8.00 At the Door \$10.00**  
**Children under 12 - Free!, Scouts in uniform - Free!**  
**Tables \$25 each Free Electricity**  
**Tailgate - Free!**



Friday, March 22nd, 2019  
Table Set-up 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Saturday, March 23rd, 2019

Sessions 7:00 am to 3:30 pm Sales 8:00 am to 2:00 pm Grand Prize Raffle 2:00 pm  
Testing 9:00 am & 11:00 am Tailgate 6:00 am to 3:30 pm

## Programs and Speakers

ARRL Forum - John Robert Stratton, N5AUS - West Gulf Division Director

ARES District 14 Meeting - Jeff Walter, KE5FGA  
SMD Soldering - Donovan Bali, KG5BDZ

Balloon Program & Launch - Andy McAllister, W5ACM

**GRAND PRIZE**

Raffle 1<sup>st</sup> Prize

**Icom IC-7300**



**Convention Prize**

Raffle 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize

**ANYTONE AT-D878UV**



Raffle Tickets \$2.00 Each Raffle Drawing at 2:00 pm  
Door Prizes \$1.00 Each Hourly drawing starts 9:00 am  
Raffle tickets can only be purchased on site.

Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 4310 Texas-36 Rosenberg, TX 77471

👉 [www.HoustonHamfest.org](http://www.HoustonHamfest.org) 👈

# The Radio Hotel Small Antennas – Mag Loops Part 1

by Rick Hiller–W5RH joined this month by JP Pritchard – K5JPP

A significant amount of Hams wish HF antennas were smaller. Small enough to fool the HOA, fool their spouse and their neighbors. But in spite of the antennas being smaller, Hams still want them to “get out” and work the contacts that they wish to work, on the bands and modes we all work. No small feat. As with any antenna, but especially a small loop, the radiation pattern and Feed Z /SWR are at the top of the list of antenna attributes to which we pay attention to and strive to maximize.



There has been an on and off affinity for small antennas for many decades now (Army Loop QST March 1968). Mag Loops in particular. Small in this case is 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a wavelength in length / circumference/perimeter; most are most are deployed in a circle. The current all around the loop is of similar amplitude, with little variation. Hence, the term Magnetic Loop. These small loops present a significant challenge to the implementing Ham due to two very important facts. One is that the feed impedance is very low; and two, being that the bandwidth of the antenna is very narrow. You have to get power to the antenna and we Hams like to move around and change frequencies, so most design attempts and discussion focus on feed Z and bandwidth. Not that efficiency is put off the table...it is not.



The interesting attributes of the small loops were first outlined in a 1982 book by Ted Hart, W4QJR. (Contact me if you want a PDF copy) They can produce a low angle of radiation in line with the plane of the loop. A surprising characteristic from such a small antenna. Enhancing this pattern is possible with the addition of radials. A loop looks similar to a vertical antenna from these results. One beneficial or “comes with the house” property is low receive noise, as displayed by any smaller than full size antenna.

More recently, the ARRL published a fair amount of design aspect that has, in my information is the fact that you these small loops with in the results are being put out into the



publications QST and QEX have articles about small loops. One opinion, produced more relevant can now successfully model 4NEC2 NEC2 engine. The Ham Radio knowledge base.

Physical construction is probably the biggest limitation to the average Ham. You cannot just measure and cut wire, as with a dipole. Small Loops take design time and planning. JP, K5JPP, has firsthand knowledge of building a few loops and he comments here:

*“With extensive and generous help of Elmers, Bill W5VOM and Rick W5RH, and after a lot of research, I can now claim ownership of two DIY mag loops. Yes, you can make a working loop with a bit of wire and an old variable capacitor, but if you want to build an antenna that will be useful for more than an experimental weekend, plan on getting your hands on the right parts, especially if you plan to transmit with your loop. First off, look for a true butterfly capacitor or a vacuum variable capacitor. No matter which you choose, make sure your cap spans an appropriate range of values, depending on the frequencies you hope to use. And make sure the cap is rated for a high enough voltage for whatever power you plan to transmit.*

*Most of the loops you’ll see in internet videos are supported by PVC pipe. Don’t expect PVC to hold its shape in the hot Texas sun. Make sure you use heat resistant C-PVC pipe. Whatever you do, do not use wood as support structure for your loop. It turns out, wood apparently absorbs RF, especially when wet. If I were to construct a mag loop today, here’s the website where I would look for guidance, built by Rich K8NDS, <http://www.hlmagneticloopantennas.com>. Visit his QRZ.com page as well, to see how he uses his “helical” magnetic loops. He also administers a group site for helical loop builders.*

*One final thought. Before you start, come to terms with the basic nature of mag loops. Tuning to resonance is an exercise in patience every time you change your operating frequency. As W5VOM puts it, finding the sweet spot for resonance is like tuning your capacitor on the edge of a razor.” K5JPP*

(continued next page)



To overcome the challenges of feed Z and bandwidth in the physical world, a few feed schemes have risen to the level of a universal solution. The Gamma Match and the secondary feed loop (acting like a transformer primary) The Gamma Match seems to have a bit more tuning issues to get the length, spacing and capacitive value correct, but works well once in place. The secondary loop is more easily implemented with a piece of coax making up the loop.

Bandwidth seems to be the most challenging of the physical worlds. It is usually done by a variable capacitor across a gap in the loop circumference. Not just any capacitor, mind you. A low loss, high voltage variable, leaning more toward a vacuum type, but not necessarily. The MFJ implementation used a butterfly capacitor where the fixed stators(2) were each welded to the loop's gap ends for keeping the resistance losses low. The variable stator (shaped like butterfly wings) would rotate 360 degrees around to cover a wide range of capacitance, thus tuning the loop to resonance over a fairly wide bandwidth. The tuning was performed by a geared down, slow speed DC motor or stepper motor, mechanically coupled to the butterfly plates.

Next time, in Part 2, we'll look into the theory of "why they work", "how they work" and just what does it take to build one of these. I'll give lots of online references too. Stay tune.

Talk to JP or Bill, W5VOM, or me if you have an interest in more information or you would actually like to attempt to build one.

**Next time....**

*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.*



**Classified Ads:**

As another benefit of membership, BVARC allows members to publish a free classified ad in the BEACON. Of course, it can have no commercial interests, be only sales of personal items, and be related to ham radio. Simply send an e-mail to the Editor with the requested text. This is not to be confused with the paid commercial ads that are also available.



**Museum Ships - Galveston**

Museum Ships Weekend is June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.

We're currently working on the configuration and estimate – to present to the museum board – for the split A/C system for the radio room (et al).

We're tentatively planning another outing for early March, at the ships. Watch for details on the email reflector. Contact Mark (K5MGJ) to volunteer or for more info at K5MGJ@yahoo.com

**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club**

January 5, 2019 9:00 AM  
Bayland Park Community Center  
6400 Bissonnet, Houston, Texas

Board Members Present:

Mike Hardwick N5VCX (President)  
Jon Noxon KF5TFJ (Rec. Secretary)  
Donovan Balli KG5BDZ (Treasurer)

Jimmy Vance W5ZTX (1-yr Director)  
Jeff Greer W5JEF (Cor. Secretary)  
Scott Medbury KD5FBA (2yr @ Lg Dir)

Visitors

Michael Monsour AC0TX  
John Chauvin K5IZO

Recorded by Jon Noxon, KF5TFJ Recording Secretary

- 1) Call to Order: The President called the meeting to order at 9:12 AM.
- 2) Establishment of Quorum: A business quorum was established.
- 3) Approval of Agenda: A motion made and seconded to approve the agenda.
- 4) Club President's Opening Statement: The President thanked those present for attending the meeting.
- 5) Emergency Business: Per AC0TX stated concerns, discussion ensued regarding the 2018 GHHF Income and Expenses and manner of reporting the cash box activity.
- 6) Approval of Minutes from Previous BOD Meeting: The Board approved the minutes for the November 2018 BoD meeting.
- 7) Approval of Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was approved.

8) Old Business:

- General Membership Meetings scheduled as follows, with topics not listed to be determined:  
Friday, January 18, 2019 BVARC Awards Banquet 6:30 pm at Papadeaux Seafood Kitchen on Westheimer. (Rick Hiller)  
February 14, 2019 Dxpedition (guest speaker John McCaully W5RQ)  
March 14, 2019 (open) (plus obligatory Ham Fest stuff)  
April 11, 2019 (Arduino 101- Jon Noxon)  
May 9, 2019 (open)  
June 13, 2019 (ARRL Field Day Training, operation of K3's and software)  
July 11, 2019 (open)

Status of Museum Ships donations; pending Ham Fest proceeds.

General discussion on new future club activities beyond the well-established ones (Field Day, Chili and Elections, Ice Cream Social, Hamfest and so on). Suggestions included New Hams, Winter Field Day, Club picnic, Ham Radio Night at at Skeeters game, and others. Janzer offered the use of his beach house for the QRP FYBO event in February.

Topics for club meetings discussed. (suggestions included Slow-Scan TV, Satellite operations)

VE testing to continue. The new VE Coordinator is Mark Janzer.

Long discussion held on lessons learned from Station in a Box raffle and future similar events.

Discussions regarding future of the club newsletter (BVARC Beacon).

9. New Business:

- John Chauvin's presentation from his December 5 email was discussed, with K5IZO present for clarifications of three general points. Instructional vs. Informative presentations discussed. No formal board action taken.
- Privatization of the club roster discussed; decision placed in abeyance. Subject to be presented briefly to membership at general meeting and via Beacon to gauge member's desires.

10. Cost Saving Measures: Still looking into this on an on-going item. Meeting place, Awards Banquet and Storage Locker are major expenses.

11. Next BOD meeting date: February 9, 2019

Future BoD dates: (all 2019) Mar 9, Apr 6, May 4, Jun 8, July 6, Aug 3, Sep 7, Oct 5, Nov 9, Dec 7 is Possible conflict with Pear Harbor Event

11. Comments: Discussions regarding enhancements to the BVARC Beacon for a calendar of events.

12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:17



## 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

10/22 - 18 - Clint, kf5ndf	11/26 - 12 - Clint, kf5ndf	12/31 - 10 - Terry, k5pgf
10/29 - 18 - Dave, k5ekw	12/3 - 12 - Rick, w5rh	2019
11/5 - 16 - Dave, k5ekw	12/10 - 15 - Bill, kg5fqx	1/7 - 11 - Dave, k5ekw
11/12 - 18 - Bill, kg5fqx	12/17 - 8 - Dave, k5ekw	1/14 - 19 - Bill, kg5fqx
11/19 - 7 - Dave, k5ekw	12/24 - 10 - Clint, kf5ndf	1/21 - 14 - Dave, k5ekw

### BVARC QUICK STATS

Date	Members	Newsletters	Life Members
1/24/2019	189	180	72



#### 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.



### Hamfests

(typically within 200 miles of Houston)

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

#### 02/23/2019 | Orange, Texas Hamfest

**Location:** Orange, TX

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Orange ARC, Jefferson County ARC

**Website:** [https://www.qsl.net/w5nd/index\\_files/HAMFEST%20NFO/hamfest%20info](https://www.qsl.net/w5nd/index_files/HAMFEST%20NFO/hamfest%20info)

#### 03/08/2019 | Louisiana State Convention, 59th Acadina Hamfest

**Location:** Rayne, LA

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Acadiana Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

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

#### 03/22/2019 | Texas State Convention (Greater Houston Hamfest)

**Location:** Rosenberg, TX

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

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

#### 04/06/2019 | Ham EXPO Spring 2019

**Location:** Belton, TX

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Temple Amateur Radio Club

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

# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

This newsletter, the BVARC 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](http://www.bvarc.org). Detailed information will be published in the BEACON 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 has resumed. It takes place on the Saturday before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 10:30 AM. Location: Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston, 77074. BEFORE GOING, please check the BVARC website for any changes.

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, see the BVARC website: [www.bvarc.org](http://www.bvarc.org)

Other contacts include:

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

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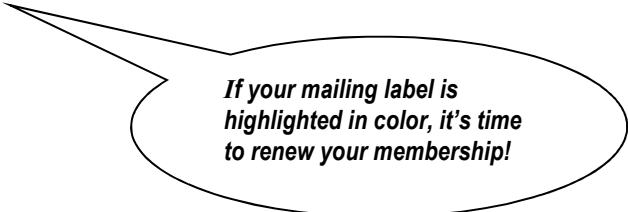
FEBRUARY 2019

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

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**February 9 – BVARC Amateur Radio License Testing Session  
February 14 – General Membership Meeting**



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