



BVARC BEACON



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

JULY 2019

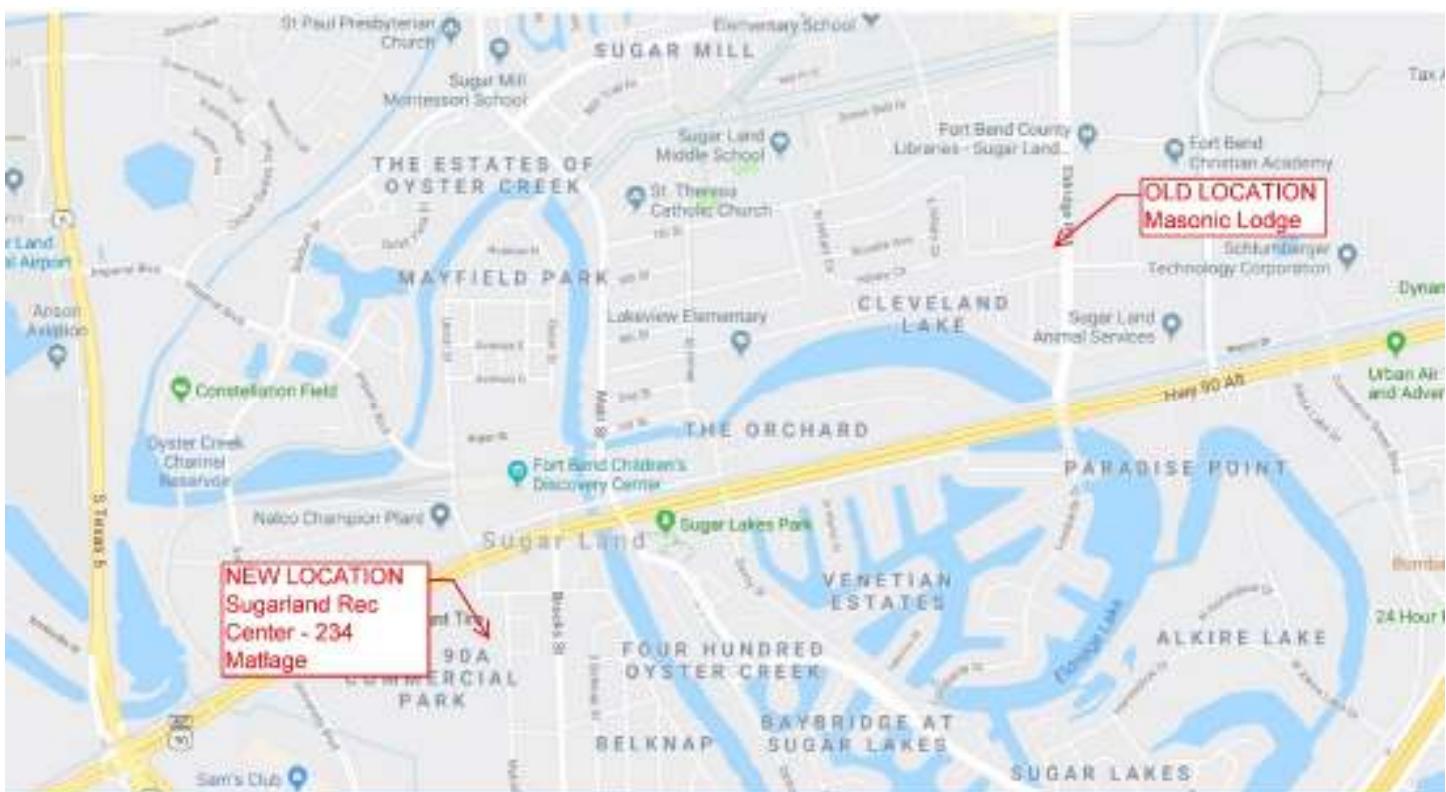
VOLUME 43 ISSUE 7

BVARC JULY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The meeting this month will be 7:30pm Thursday, July 11th – **AND THE LOCATION WILL CHANGE**

The general meeting will now be held at 7:30, Thursday, July 11th at the Imperial Park Sugarland Recreation Center at 234 Matlage Way, Sugar Land TX, 77478 – It's right across the street from the Post Office.

The featured presentation will be “Building a QRP kit” presented by Mike Hardwick, N5VCX



Prez Says

What a crazy summer so far. Two of the club's biggest events are now behind us and both were extremely successful with great turnouts. Everyone should remember though these events require planning, hard work and determination. Without the help of club members and volunteers, the events would have not happened or would have not been as successful as they were. So you see any of the organizers of these events or any of the volunteers that helped put the event on, shake their hand and tell them thanks for a wonderful job they have done for the club and the amateur community.

Museum Ships Weekend went well and Mark Janzer, K5MGJ, did a great job of putting everything together. There were operations on only the Stewart this year since the Cavalla antenna was not repaired in time for MSWE. Check elsewhere in the newsletter for more information on Museum Ships Weekend.

This year's Quad Club Mega Field Day Event was more than a huge success. Duhascek Park again proved to be one of the best locations ever for Field Day by allowing a great antenna system to be constructed for the event. Members of BVARC, TDXS, ECHO and KARS worked hard on this year organizing and operating for the 2019 Field Day. Some quick numbers on Field Day are:

Class	10 A	- With a GOTA station
Contacts	3,878	- 2.7 contacts a minute!
Points (pre-bonus)	13,772	- Bonus points dropped from the sky – Fort Bend County Sheriff flew in on department helicopter on Saturday
Friday attendance	25	
Saturday attendance	105	25% were non-club members (visitors and walk-ins)
Sunday attendance	40	
GOTA attendance	20	

Everyone's hard work made this Field Day the largest in Houston and possibly in Texas. A ton of thanks go to Bill Cordell, Jimmy Vance, Doug Seyler, and Glenn Anderson for everything they did for the 2019 event. I know I am missing a lot of people that worked on Field Day but I want to thank everyone for the work they did.

And this year we had a new group keeping the engines of Field Day fueled - Daphne, Kelli and Anita. They provided individual, personal service for the food this year. They were able to prepare 6 meals for the event and even had snacks for the night crew. They did a great job and I hope they will be back again next year.

I also want to thank KARS and Dave Scott for coordinating and bringing out the Fort Bend county Emergency Management trailer. It was a great addition and I hope we can continue it in the future.

And last but not least, don't forget this year at the Ice Cream there will be awards for the top scorers for Field Day. Awards will be presented for CW, SSB and who knows what else. So make sure you come out to the Ice Cream Social in August.

For those who missed Ham-Com this year, it was back in Plano and was a great success. Some people said that they had nearly 5000 people attend over the three day period. The increase in attendance is something that will help the hobby and make it grow.

Hope to see everyone at the general meeting on the 11th.

73,
N5VCX

Ice Cream Social, General Meeting Location Move and Other Important Things

Beginning July, the BVARC general meeting will move to the Sugar Land Park Department Imperial Park Recreational Center, 234 Matlage Way, Sugar Land. We have met there in the past so most members should remember the location. For those who have not been there, the location is across the street from the Sugar Land Post Office on Matlage Way. The meeting location is also next to the old community center where the club met for over 15 years.

The reason for the move is basically economics. With a drop-in income from the HamFest, we are scaling back on club costs and the \$1400 a year the Masonic Lodge was costing was something that could be cut. Plus, the Masonic Lodge and the connection with the Sugar Land Mason's never really worked out. Even with the Nation Mason group having its own amateur radio group, the local group never really seemed to be interested in amateur radio. Hopefully in the future we can develop a connection with the Masons and bring them into the hobby.

The Ice Cream Social this year is bringing back the tradition of homemade ice cream. The annual event was originally a contest of who could make the best homemade ice cream from the club. Several years ago, the number of submissions dropped off and we started to supplement the ice cream with Blue Bell. Unfortunately, the homemade ice cream dropped to zero and for the last 8 to 10 years, it has been the store-bought variety. So.....

Talking with the Ice Cream Social coordinators, Daphne Rawlinson and Kelli Medbury, it was decided to try and bring back the tradition this year. So if you would like to bring your best homemade ice cream, let Daphne know. You can email her at daphne_rawlinson@hotmail.com. Daphne will need to know if you are bringing ice cream by August 1st. We need to know so if needed we can purchase ice cream for the event or not. Hope to taste your great ice cream in August.

And speaking of bringing back traditions, Scott Medbury is working on bringing back the BVARC annual picnic. The dates have been discussed but nothing has been finalized. If you would like to help organize or attend the BVARC picnic, give Scott a call.

N5VCX



JUNE VE - FCC TESTING SESSION RESULTS

For the Saturday June 8th test session: We had 4 candidates.

New Licensees:

Roberts K. (Technician)
Wilson C. (General)
Renfro, T. (General)
Russell W. (General)

Note those that walked in without a license and walked out with a General!

Congratulations to all!

A great thank you to the VEs in attendance – K5LJ and AK5G.

Of these testing candidates – 2 are new BVARC members!

Examination sessions are held each month, usually on the same day as the Saturday BVARC Board meeting. These sessions are at the Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074

Details for candidates are found at www.bvarc.org/home/amateur-license/

Call Mark Janzer, K5MGJ at (832) 875-0526 or eMail: k5mgj@yahoo.com to pre-register.



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:

3/13/25 - 18 - Clint, kf5ndf	4/29 - 20 - Terry, k5pgf	6/3 - 11 - Dave, k5ekw
4/1 - 17 - Dave, k5ekw	5/6 - 11 - Dave, k5ekw	6/10 - 12 - Bill, kg5fqx
4/8 - 16 - Bill, kg5fqx	5/13 - 17 - Bill, kg5fqx	6/17 - 14 - Dave, k5ekw
4/15 - 15 - Dave, k5ekw	5/20 - 19 - Dave, k5ekw	6/24 - 25 - Clint, kf5ndf
4/22 - 16 - Clint, kf5ndf	5/27 - 13 - Clint, kf5ndf	

BVARC QUICK STATS

Date	Total Membership	Newsletters	Life Members
6/24/2019	196	186	70



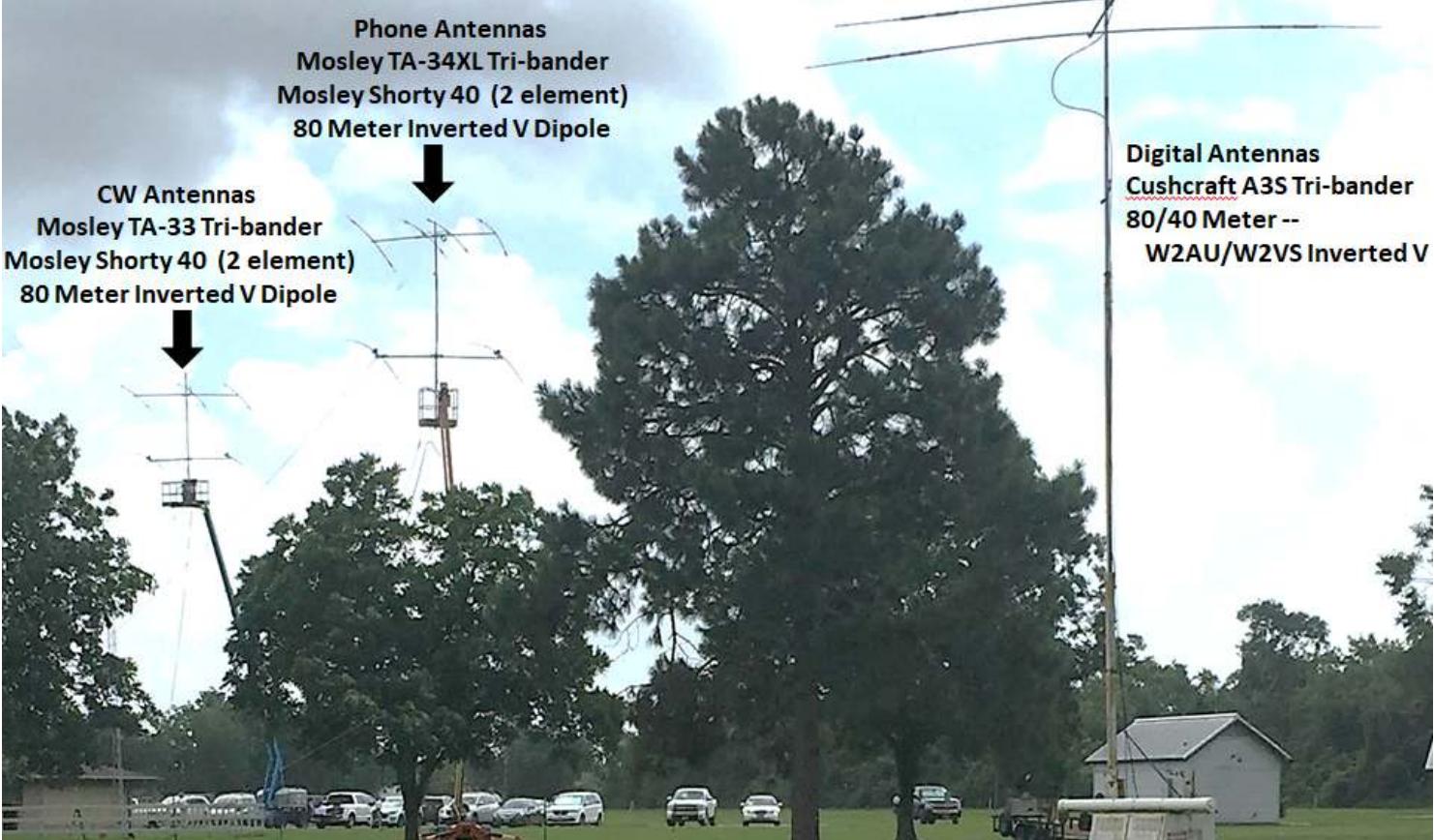
The Radio Hotel – KK5W Field Day Antennas

by Rick Hiller – W5RH

First, congrats to the KK5W Field Day antenna crew. A job done extremely well with a massive effort by a number of folks in the sweltering sun and humidity. Thank you!

If you attended Field Day at Duhacsek Park you would have noticed 4 antenna support structures with Yagi-Udas mounted and wire dipoles hung from each. Maybe you knew what some of them were, but if not, maybe you would like to know. Below is a picture of the antenna farm with identifying callouts. Below that, you will find web links (url's) to the commercial or hobby sites for more information on these antennas, plus K5GN's receive antennas not shown in the pictures.

KK5W 2019 Antenna Farm



6 Meter Yagi

Mosley TA-33, TA-34XL and Shorty 40 - www.mosleyelectronics.com

Cushcraft A3S & A50-3S 6 Meter Yagi - www.cushcraftamateur.com

80 Meter Dipoles – with 1:1 Balun – Homebrew by BVARC

80/40 Dipole – W2AU/W2VS Antenna Kit www.unidilla/Products/fds

Receive Antennas by K5GN

80 Meter Beverage – www.W8JI/beverages

40 Meter Phased Beverages – www.eham.net/articles/503 by W3LPL

6 Meter Yagi

Next time for TRH.... Designing, Then Building, a Shortened (coil loaded) Dipole Antenna – 2 parts



MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND RESULTS REPORT - May 31 to June 2, 2019

We had over 14 participants this year for MSWE. We had three stations going with a SteppIR vertical, a KF5TFJ delta loop and a questionable end fed zepp. With this set-up we had 229 Q's off the delta loop and 78 Q's off the SteppIR (Total 307 Q's). We used the SteppIR, periodically, for the SS Selma and got 43 Q's for her.

David (KK5MT) and Ian Lopez (W9IAN) traveled down from Burk Burnett, Texas to participate. They normally activate the USS Batfish in Muskogee OK, but the Arkansas River was flooded and the Batfish actually moved off location. They were very helpful in setup, operations and teardown. Ian (17 years old) racked up most of the Q's from the Stewart radio room!

The Saturday BBQ from Leon's was to die for (maybe better than Rudy's)

Next year we'll be prioritizing getting the antennas on the Cavalla and hope to get two stations up and running on her. Thanks again to all who participated!!

Check out the link below for more information on the event and the list of activated ships:
<http://www.nj2bb.org/museum/>

For more information on how you can participate in the continuing efforts on the ships, contact Mark Janzer – K5MGJ at K5MGJ@YAHOO.COM

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club is grateful for the enthusiastic support of the Galveston Naval Museum and the Galveston Park Board of Trustees for their permission to be aboard the vessels and use of the park facilities. We look forward to continued future activity. This allows us, in our own way, to honor those who served their country at sea and to support Galveston Parks.



Where in the World is . . . Easter Island (CE0) CQ Zone 12, ITU Zone 63 IOTA SA-001

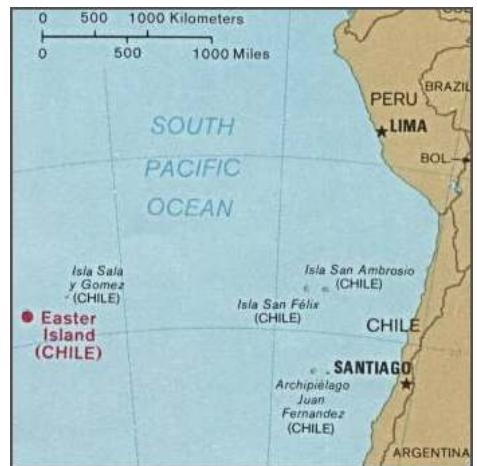
Mysterious Easter Island. Think giant statues built by native peoples. They were immigrants from Polynesia, who first arrived by canoe somewhere around 1200. That's 1200 AD, not time for lunch.



The natives named their island Rapa Nui (Great Rapa) or alternatively “*Navel of the World*”, which can also be translated as “*the end of the land*. ” It was named Easter Island by the first European who landed on the island on Easter Sunday in 1722. The island was claimed by Chile in 1888 and the inhabitants were subsequently given Chilean citizenship.

The statues, called MOAI were sculpted from hardened volcanic ash, which is not very durable. Some MOAI are over 80 feet tall. So far, nearly 900 statues have been discovered. Some MOAI face the ocean and islanders

differ as to how they got there. One island tradition says they “walked” there. Others, suggesting the people may have used a series of ropes and log rollers. Some widely publicized “experts” at one time suggested extraterrestrial beings were somehow involved.



For unknown reasons, a coup by native military leaders called *matatoa* had brought a new cult based around a previously unexceptional God [Make-make](#). In the cult of the birdman, a competition was established in which every year a representative of each clan, chosen by the leaders, would swim across shark-infested waters to Motu Nui, a nearby islet, to search for the season's first egg laid by a *manutara*. The first swimmer to return with an egg and successfully climb back up the cliff to Orongo (a village on the tip of the island), would be named "Birdman of the year" and secure control over distribution of the island's resources for his clan for the year. The tradition was still in existence at the time of first contact by Europeans but was suppressed by Christian missionaries in the 1860s.

Figure 1 Moto Nui

Easter Island is one of the world's most isolated inhabited islands. It is Easter Island is located more than 2200 miles west of the Chilean coast. It is closer to Antarctica. Its closest inhabited neighbor is the Juan Fernandez Islands, 1,150 miles to the east.

The climate is subtropical. The warmest months are January through March, when the average temperature is 73 °F, and the coolest months are June through August, when the average temperature is 64 °F. Average annual precipitation is about 49 inches.

Easter Island boasts no natural harbor, but ships can anchor off Hanga Roa on the west coast; it is the island's largest village, with a population of roughly 3,300. In 1995, UNESCO named Easter Island a World Heritage site. It is now home to a mixed population, mostly of Polynesian ancestry and made up of the descendants of the Long-Ears and Short-Ears. Spanish is generally spoken, and the island has developed an economy largely based on tourism.

Numerous DXpeditions, large and small have made their way to Easter Island to activate CE0. Almost forty are listed in QRZ. According to the Clublog DXCC Most Wanted list, Easter stands at No. 103 slot out of 340.

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

Standby for Next Month's Monster Article!

Where in the World is. . Duhacsek Park?



Samuel F. Wilson - 1925-2019 – N5CPA

Sam Wilson, a long time Club member passed away April 28, 2019. Sam was a devoted member of BVARC for many years always attending meetings and all other events that the club held. Sam held many offices in the club and was NCS of the Wednesday night "rag chew net" on 75 meters. He would attend meetings and gatherings making announcements about the BVARC "eating" schedules for the month and attend most of the events of them with his wife Margaret. Sam started and ran the Friday night BVARC supper group.

Sam grew up in Houston and graduated from Reagan High School and also graduated for Texas A & M with a degree in Civil Engineering then working for Texaco. Sam served the US Army Air Corps as a B-24 pilot stationed in Italy. His war story was that his plane ran out of gas and crashed into a grove of olive trees about 300ft short of the runway.

I think Sam had the greatest issued call in the world...as I am also a CPA! Fond memories....

Submitted by Randy Pollard- AK5G

BVARC Rag Chew Net

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

05/29/19, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, WA5CYI, K5LJ, K2MPP, K5IZO, W5VOM, W5TOM, KF5EYX, AA5OA (Fort Smith, AR)(T), KG5WPE, KE5HDF.

(12 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 67, SN = 0, A = 10, K = 2 / Band Rpt: Fair

06/05/19, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, W5TOM, K2MPP, W5VOM, WW5PA/5 (M)(San Angelo), WA5PYY (Columbus), N5EKW (Katy), WA5CYI, AA0ST (Dickinson), KJ5Y (RCS)(W5FMH/club) (Angleton), N5NPM (Springtown), K5IZO, W5RH, KF5ZAC (T), WA5ANF (T). (17 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 70, SN = 0, A = 7, K = 2 / Band Rpt: Fair

06/12/19, W5TKZ (NCS), N5EKW, KG5SQJ (Aledo), K5LJ, K2MPP, KF5EYX, K5LKJ/5 (Conroe), W5RH, WA5ANF (T), AG5UN/5 (M),

KJ5Y (RCS)(W5FMH/club) (Angleton), KG5VBE. (12 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 69, SN = 0, A = 7, K = 1 / Band Rpt: Fair

06/19/19, W5TKZ (NCS), W5TOM, K5JPP, W5RH, WW5PA/5 (M)(Bastrop), K5LKJ/5 (Conroe), WA5CYI, WA5ANF (T), KF5ONT, K5LJ, K2MPP, AA0ST (Dickinson), W5VOM, KG5VBE, KF5EYX. (15 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 68, SN = 0, A = 4, K = 2 / Band Rpt: Fair

06/26/19, K5LKJ (NCS), K5LJ, K5JPP, W5VOM, K2MPP, WW5PA/5 (M)(N. LA), AA0ST (Dickinson), W5HFF, W1BG (Katy), W5RH, W5TKZ, AA5OA (Fort Smith, AR)(T), KC5JAR (Katy (13 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 68, SN = 12, A = 4, K = 1 / Band Rpt: Fair

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

Net conditions have been fair this month. Learn what others are doing.

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

P.S. – Your presence is missed on the net. Hope you are able to get your station up and running again soon. And, I hope that the move is going well.



Bug of unknown manufacture. Embossed "Property of Postal Telegraph Cable Co."

MINUTES
Board of Directors Meeting
Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

June 8, 2019 9:00 AM

Bayland Park Community Center
6400 Bissonnet, Houston, Texas

Board Members Present:

Mike Hardwick N5VCX (President)
Mark Janzer K5MGJ (Vice President)

Jon Noxon KF5TFJ (Rec. Secretary)
Jeff Greer W5JEF (Cor. Secretary)
Donovan Bali KG5BDZ (Treasurer)*

Scott Medbury KD5FBA (Directory 2Yr)
Visitors
Michael Monsour AC0TX

Recorded by Jon Noxon, KF5TFJ Recording Secretary

- 1) Call to Order: The President called the meeting to order at 9:08.
- 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: With Jo Keener's passing, a replacement board member is needed to complete his term. Michael Monsour AC0TX was present at the meeting, and upon approval of the Board, agreed to fulfill Jo's term. Thanks, Mike.
- 6) Approval of Minutes from Previous BOD Meeting: The Board approved the minutes for the May 2019 BoD meeting with the following addition to the April BoD Minutes:

Item 5: Any new licensee resulting from a BVARC VE session not previously a club member is eligible for the \$5.00 first year of BVARC Membership.

- 7) Approval of Treasurer's Report: The Board approved the Treasurer's Report (Treasurer was present via telecon).
- 8) Corresponding Secretary: A few BVARC renewal checks received. An oral report of status of mailings given and hand off of correspondence directed to Museum Ships Weekend was handed off to MSWE coordinator (QSL related).
- 9) Old Business:

General Membership Meetings scheduled as follows, with topics not listed to be determined:

July 11, 2019 - A Skype presentation from off-site presenter is planned; topic to be decided. This meeting to be at a new location:
234 Matlage Way Sugar Land TX, 77478

August 8, 2019 – Ice Cream Social.

September 12, 2019 – TBD. (possible joint meeting with TDX September or October)

October 10, 2019 – TBD.

November Chili Supper and elections.

December Home Brew Night.

Status of donations to Stewart (A/C and electrical improvements). **HELD IN ABAYANCE**

Topics for future meetings. Virtual Meeting via Skype; u-build-it project in two parts: presentation at club meeting and actual smoke solder build session at Bayland Park on the following Saturday. (Arduino watt meter suggested); Raspberry Pi presentation (could be hands-on with Pi Zero-W (\$5.00 at Microcenter)); road trip to nearby facility i.e., TransStar, Space Center. Email blast to solicit meeting ideas needed.

- 10) New Business: Mark Janzer suggested applying for club license for Stewart and upgrading to vanity call similar to ship's original call. Discussion with no clear path forward. Secret partnering activity discussed. MSWE event considered successful. Starting next year, effort being made to get the antennas on Cavalla working.
10. Cost Saving Measures: Continue looking into this on an on-going item. Masonic Lodge to be abandoned; Awards Banquet and Storage Locker are the remaining major expenses.
11. Next BOD meeting date: July 6, 2019
- Future BoD dates: (all 2019) Aug 3, Sep 7, Oct 5, Nov 9, Dec 7 (Possible conflict with Pearl Harbor Event @ Stewart)
- 11) Comments:
- 12) Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:12am
13. Adjournment 10:16

2019 Officers:

President (2018-2019)
Michael Hardwick, N5VCX
n5vcx@att.net

Vice President (2019-2020)
Mark Janzer K5MGJ
k5mgj@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary (2018-2019)
Jon Noxon KF5TFJ
jon@noxon.cc

Corresponding Secretary (2019-2020)
Jeff Greer, W5JEF
greerjw@hotmail.com

Treasurer (2019-2020)
Donovan Balli, KG5BDZ

2 Year At-Large Board Member A: (2018-2019)
Michael Monsour AC0TX
msircq@gmail.com

2 Year At-Large Board Member B: (2017-2018)
Scott Medbury KD5FBA
smedbury@windstream.net

1 Year At Large (2019)
Jimmy Vance, W5ZTX
w5ztx@gmail.com

Regularly Scheduled Club Happenings:

General Meeting

Second Thursday each month, 7:30 PM
Imperial Park Sugarland Recreation Center at
234 Matlage Way, Sugar Land TX, 77478

Board of Directors Meeting

The Saturday before the 2nd Thursday, 9:00 AM (For Sept., check website)

Bayland Park Community Center
Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston.

Volunteer Examiner Program

The monthly ham testing session takes place on the same day and location as the BOD Meeting, but at 10:30 AM. However, please check the BVARC website for any last minute changes or updates.

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 monthly 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

(typically within 200 miles of Houston)

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

07/13/2019 | Swapmeet

Location: Texas City, TX

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Tidelands Amateur Radio Society

Website: <https://www.tidelands.org/>

08/02/2019 | South Texas Section Convention, Austin Summerfest 2019

Location: Austin, TX

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Austin ARC & Texas VHF-FM Society

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

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. 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 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 has resumed. It takes place typically on the Saturday before the 2nd 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

Other contacts include:

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

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

Newsletter Printing, Assembly and Mailing: Daphne Rawlinson, K5VQY, daphne_rawlinson@hotmail.com.

Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, k5cam@arrl.net; Mike Teers, KG5SXG, miketrs@windstream.net

JP Pritchard, K5JPP, jppnews@comcast.net; Esther Pritchard, elop@comcast.net

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

VOLUME 43, ISSUE 7

JULY 2019

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

July 11 – General Membership Meeting