



BVARC BEACON



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

SEPTEMBER 2021

VOLUME 45 ISSUE 9

September 9 Zoom Meeting

Our September meeting will have John Thurmond, K5JBT, doing a ZOOM presentation on Arduino and its general and practical applications. John sent a writeup on his program: It is included in The Prez Says (below). Look for the Zoom link on the BVARC Reflector and the website as this date approaches.



The Prez Says

I want to thank Ron Bosch, KE4DRF and Sheree Horton, WM5N for their presentation on the National Traffic system and how to handle messages. The hurricane season always presents a possibility of amateur radio activation so makes it helpful to understand the basics on traffic handling. Again, thanks to Ron and Sheree.

Our September meeting will have (finally) John Thurmond, K5JBT, doing a ZOOM presentation on Arduino and its general and practical applications. John wrote up the following on his program:

Microcontrollers the Easy Way

Microcontrollers are an inexpensive, fast, and easy way to build a project for your shack. If you've ever thought about getting into using them, but don't feel like you know how to get started, this presentation is your starting point. We'll live-program a simple field strength meter on an Arduino using only built-in example code to show you that you don't need to be a programmer to build something useful. Building up from there is easy!

So, make sure check out the September 9th Zoom program on Arduino and its applications.

The plans for BVARC's annual ICE CREAM Social are still for will be held on October 14th from 7pm to 9pm at Duhacsek Park. It is still dependent on the COVID and how bad the infection rate is. If the numbers have not started a downward trend, then we will have to postpone the Social to another day. It is unfortunate but the BOD cannot present a function that has the possibility of causing someone to become infected with COVID.

The August BOD meeting has a lengthy discussion on the Monday night NET format. It was determined that the script was outdated and needed to be rewritten. The BOD also feels that inclusive approach should be done during the opening of the NET. Having said that it was mentioned that club members should also participate in functions as much as possible. That is the purpose of the club and its support of amateur radio. This is a factor that sometimes members forget that it takes effort and energy to maintain the club and even with approximately 300 members, only 30 are active. If any member has ideas on improving the club and its functions, please contact the BOD and let them know. If you want to send me the information only, please send it to n5vcx@att.net. The BOD is always open to new ideas and recommendations.

Speaking of active members, John Chauvin, K5IZO, the BVARC Beacon's editor, is looking for a replacement. John has been editor for over 17 years and is ready to step down. The newsletter has been a staple of BVARC for over 43 years (most of the newsletters on the BVARC web site including Vol 1, Number 1 edition). So if you have time and would like to be a part of BVARC history, drop John an e-mail and let him know. More information is in the newsletter.

Due to a change at Sugar Land Parks department, we have lost our meeting space at the Recreational center through December. For now, we have Duhacsek Park reserved the second Thursday of the month through December. Stay tuned for meeting information and programs. If anyone has an idea for a meeting location, let the BVARC BOD know.

With hurricane season around us, I thought I would list a few interesting frequencies.

20 meters: **14.325 MHz Hurricane Watch Net** (Main frequency during Hurricanes)

40 meters: 7.268 MHz Water Way Net (secondary frequency) Maritime Mobiles Net

80 meters: 3.815 MHz Caribbean Net, (Alternates: 3.950 : North Florida / 3.940 South Florida)

These frequencies are always busy during an event and by listening, can help you prepare for operation when a storm hits locally.

I leave you with this picture. I call it – "I don't need a rotor"



Hope to "see" everyone on the Zoom meeting.

73

N5VCX



Hamfests

(typically within 200 miles of Houston)

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

10/02/2021 - HamEXPO Fall 2021

Location: Belton, TX

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Temple Amateur Radio Club

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

Party Invitation

You are invited to join in the fun operating in the 2021 Texas QSO Party (TQP).

So what is TQP?

It is an event for ham radio operators to have fun operating on all the traditional HF bands, primarily 15, 20 and 40 meters. Most operators use phone and/or CW. Awards are given to the top three scores in several categories. For the complete list check the rules on the TQP web site: <https://www.txqp.net/>

When is the party?

It starts at 9AM CDT Saturday, September 18, 2021. Operate 12 hours, until 9PM. Then have a good night's rest. On Sunday, the fun starts again at 9AM, and lasts until 3PM. So the party ends after 18 hours.

Who runs the party?

Coordinator is yours truly, Keith NM5G. Sponsor is Texas DX Society.

Now, let me tell you a story to get you interested.



I have worked TQP for many years. In 2011 I was asked to join Chuck NO5W, for his mobile operation. Chuck was coordinator back then. He wanted me to drive his SUV while he operated CW from the passenger seat. To give me some incentive to operate, he offered to let me operate phone whenever it was convenient to stop (my CW was quite rusty back then).

As it turned out, there were problems switching the equipment between CW and phone. So, I offered to do all the driving, and just listen to the CW activity. This turned out to be a CW refresher experience for me and got me back into the mood to work on reviving this skill.

We ended up with about 1000 miles on the trip meter. Saturday evening we got a hotel room in Granbury, which is southwest of Fort Worth. Chuck had made dinner plans with some ham friends who live near there, so we had a nice evening meal before settling in for a restful night.

I think the most interesting part of the trip was listening to the stations following our progress along the way. Every time we would cross a county line, the pile-up would last about 10 minutes until our followers had all worked us in that county. The rules provide for bonus points for working a mobile station in multiple counties. So, if you were working from home and worked us in five different counties, you get a 500-point bonus. Also, the mobile station gets a similar bonus for working five stations in a county.

Texas has 254 counties, the most of any state. We like to have activity in all counties, but this is a challenging goal as some counties are quite remote, and no ham operators reside there. So we encourage mobile stations to plan a route that includes these remote places. It can be a real adventure.

What planning is involved?

Chuck handles all the route planning and contest scoring. I do the PR work and handle the awards. Last year Mark Tyler K5GQ and I went mobile in my Silverado. He operated CW and I operated sideband when we made stops at various county lines. We won the first-place plaque!

We have already planned a repeat for 2021, with certain improvements including using my new Icom 7300 and having two antennas (one on 40 meters and a screwdriver for 20 and 15 meters).

Please join us this year. See all details on our web site or contact me directly if you have questions. My cell phone is 713-553-1827, and email is keith1@dutson.net.

73, Keith NM5G

TQP Coordinator



The Feed Point

BVARC Members, How We Got Here

BVARC Member Mike Lambert, KI5MIK

I happily retired 4 years ago so I could do things I 'wanted' to do rather than what I 'had' to do to make a living. I am fortunate in that I am comfortable; everything is paid for and I and have the resources to spend on retirement pursuits (retirement hobbies).

My first retirement pursuit was to solve the family mystery of 'who were my father's parents?'. That mystery is now largely solved, and I was happy to find many new cousins that I keep in touch with and visit while traveling.

I am a retired security professional. When I first moved to Houston, I did a location risk assessment and made my hurricane and flood emergency plans. Well down into those plans were an emergency news and weather radio so I had an emergency radio. As the years past I improved my hurricane and flood plans and one year I bought a couple of Family Radio Service (FRS) HTs. However, I was unable to interest my family or neighbors in using the radios, so the FRS HTs just sat in a box for years.

During the February 2021 freeze as I was listening to my emergency news/weather radio when the power was out and we had no cellular service, I remembered the FRS HTs. I was curious about radio and started learning about FRS and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), even though I had no one to talk to. (In 2017 the FCC made some changes to FRS and GMRS, with FRS requiring no license and up to 2 watts of power and GMRS up to 50 watts with a purchased license.) Curious, I bought a 5-watt GMRS HT and bought a GMRS license (WRME994).

I explored the local GMRS repeater network, reaching the closest repeater 12 miles away. The GMRS repeaters are linked in Houston so I could talk to people on the other side of Houston on a different repeater! And there is also a regional net (Southwest Plains) and a National Network! I could talk to people from California to Florida! That was sweet!

I wanted to learn more about radio and found 'Amateur Radio' in the process. On YouTube, I found a lot of videos that show you how to 'pass the test' by memorizing answers to 'the test'. Unfortunately, that wasn't going to teach me about radio, just how to pass a test. I kept looking and found Gary Wise W4EEY and his friends in South Carolina who taught classes. They recorded their classes and put them on YouTube. I bought the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual and spent the last week of March and first week of April watching Gary's classes and studying the book. I tested in April, got my Technician License (KI5PIY) and joined BVARC.

I wanted to know more about radio, so I spent the month of April studying for the General license and got my General ticket in May and changed my call to KI5MIK. I must thank Gary Wise W4EEY and his co-teachers: Dave Ivey KE4EA and Tom Walton KZ4M for their help! I went to W4EEY.COM and donated to their YouTube channel, Thanks guys!!

Lately I am improving my station and antenna. I have a lot of things to learn and do. I have met many helpful folks while a member of BVARC and look forward to many years of learning and exploring radio.

MINUTES
Board of Directors Meeting
Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

August 7, 2021 9:00 AM
Via Videoconference

Members Present:

Mike Hardwick N5VCX
(President)

Jimmy Vance NA5D (Vice
President)

Rick Hiller W5RH (2 yr at
large director)

David Ely N5EKW
(Treasurer)

Jeff Greer W5JEF (Cor.
Secretary)

Scott Medbury KD5FBA (2
yr at large director)

Michael Monsour AC0TX
(Quartermaster)

John Chauvin
K5IZO (Parliamentarian)

Ron Litt K5HM

Mark Janzer K5MGJ

Eddie Runner NU5K

Terry Leatherland K5PGF

Bill Clemmons N5XWT

Richard Bonica KG5YCU

Lucy Kildow

Recorded by Mark McGrath N5VCM Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order: The President called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM
2. Establishment of a Quorum: A business quorum of Board Members was established.
3. Club President's Opening Statement: The President thanked those in attendance for taking the time to join the meeting.
4. Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved:
5. No emergency business.
6. Approval of Minutes: June minutes approved as submitted.
7. Approval of Treasurer's Report: Approved as presented.
8. Corresponding Secretary: Cleanup of club roster continues. Title to club trailer obtained. Club insurance to be renewed.
9. Old Business:
 - Upcoming general membership meetings: August – traffic handling; September – John Thurmond K5JBT – Arduino; October – Ice Cream Social; November – elections/chili; December – home brew night
10. New Business:
 - Continued use of Bayland facility discussed.
 - Extensive discussion of Monday night net. It was the consensus of the board to re-work the net script.
11. Next BoD Meeting Date: September 11, 2021?
12. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:35 AM



The Radio Hotel – The Fun of Troubleshooting

by Rick Hiller – W5RH

Hams, over time, develop a fair amount of skills like building electronics and working CW or keeping their shack computers current with the necessary IT tasks, etc. One other skill that is necessary, but sometimes ignored, is the skill of troubleshooting. Troubleshooting is the process of diagnosing the source of a problem. The basic theory of troubleshooting is that you start with the most general (and often most obvious) possible solutions to the problems, and then with a knowledge of how the system works, narrow it down to more specific issues

Troubleshooting involves both the art and skill of solving a problem by 1) knowing, fairly intimately, the workings of the system on which you are troubleshooting, or 2) by eliminating those parts of the system that don't have an influence on the problem, or 3) by substituting parts of the system, one by one, to see what changes. IMHO, knowing how the system works and what function the parts perform is the most important. On any system, this involves either a long term study into the operation of each part or attendance at the "school of hard knocks" -- years of experience working with or fixing the system. However, another method of troubleshooting is to "Shot Gun" or just flat out replacing everything or a large number of the parts involved. When time is money, as in the business world, changing out a few parts at a time with known good parts might get you back in operation more quickly.

In electronics (radio, etc.) we troubleshoot by having access to only the stimulus and the result. Minimal visual clues exist, unless it's cut antenna wires, burned connections or melted coax. We cannot see gears or belts going around (or not going around), or hearing the squeaking produced by some out of whack pulley or bushing. What we get is no RF out or in. This could be caused by high SWR, or operator error such as the RF Power control turned down or the wrong mode selected (a non-carrier mode like SSB) or one or more of many other things that could have gone awry. But knowing how things should all work and interact is a significant step toward fixing the problem.

Some troubleshooting examples -- Our antennas are a system, consisting of the antenna – the load, the transmission line, the ATU (antenna tuner) and the source – the transmitter power output. These parts all have their operational characteristics and they all interact affecting each other's operation. When there is synchronicity in our antenna system there is calm. But then one thing goes out of whack and all parts are influenced. i.e. When the antenna wire breaks, it causes a shift in feed Z which causes an increase in SWR which causes a decrease in output power from the transmitter. You have done nothing. It all happens due to your friendly neighborhood squirrel eating your antenna wire. So, when troubleshooting this problem you can look at it from an RF standpoint or a visual standpoint. One quick use of your handy dandy antenna analyzer will show you the SWR or Feed Z and you can see what has changed. Not "why", but just that it has. You'll see that the fault is in the antenna system from the coax out to the load. Then it is outside to look at the antenna and coax to see anything obvious. Sure enough, easy analysis is the downed, chewed wire. The fix might not be easy, depending on your installation, but at least you'll know what is causing the issue.

Another situation that can cover up some marginal failures in an antenna system is in the use of an antenna matching network, especially an automatic one. For example, if a PL-259 connection becomes open to water influx, water will start to rot the coax and the connector, causing higher resistance. This happens over a long period of time and you might not notice it because the ATU adjusts for the slight change. At the shack end all looks good. Then one day it becomes too much for the ATU to match and you start troubleshooting to see why your SWR is not 1:1. Bad connectors and coax are difficult to find as they are out of sight. So an almost complete dismantle of all coax connections and testing of each piece of coax or placing a dummy load in-place of your antenna and measuring Z, etc. will place you on the path to good troubleshooting and success in finding the issue.

Enjoy your hobby. 73—Rick W5RH

Sugar Land Skeeters Get Support from Area HAMS.

Submitted by Scott Medbury, KD5FBA

The Sugar Land Skeeters, the AAA affiliate of the the Houston Astros played the El Paso Chihuahuas on July 29th and the game was attended by 45 area Ham Radio Operators from BVARC, KARS, and NARS and their friends and families. This was the ninth year that Scott Medbury, KD5FBA, has organized this event. A Good time was had by all who attended as the Skeeters won in a “walk-off” during their last at-bat.

Scott is planning to do make the event even bigger next year, so watch your emails beginning with the 2022 baseball season for announcements. If you missed this get-together, let Scott know at kd5fba@gmail.com so that you can be placed on the list for updates. This event is open to ALL Amateurs in the Houston area, so spread the word.



Editor's Note:

One of the most fun operating events of the year is the Texas QSO Party (TQP). **If you are wavering**, I ask that you at least consider it as follows:

1. Read the article on Page 3&4 of this issue citing many of the aspects of TQP. This is written by Keith Dudson, NM5G, the TQP coordinator.
2. Take a read on the following urging from yours truly:
 - First, **don't be intimidated**. Though a few participants are really gung-ho about high scores, the vast majority of participants are simply in it to make Qs within Texas and around the world (Yes, there are several from overseas that work this, especially several from the UK).
 - Second, there are several ways you can operate: 1) The easiest is right from your home. 2: Probably the next is either go portable to a less populated county, or set up at a friend's house/cabin in a rare county. This makes you a very desired county and greatly increases the number of contacts you will make. 3: The most fun, but somewhat more complicated, is to go mobile (“Rover”). For the latter, two people should participate - a car driver and an operator (yes, you can switch off but preferably use the same call). You don't need a complicated rig. An older 100W HF transceiver, a mag mount (or bumper mount) antenna, and a laptop computer. Many use “Hamstick” antennas and only operate 40M and 20M; Those are the “money” bands. Talk to an active member of BVARC, TDXS, KARS, or other club and they can certainly point you to an experienced “Rover” of TQP.
 - I personally operate from San Augustine County where I have a permanent rig in my lake house. I am usually the only ham participating from that county so I am often on the good end of pileups. If you are a Rover (AKA - Mobile Station) and are in the neighborhood, stop by and I will fix you lunch – let me know well in advance. Though I am primarily a CW operator, for this event I operate SSB.

Fair warning, if you participate in any way, you will personally get hooked and find yourself operating TQP year-after-year.

BVARC Rag Chew Net

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

07/21/21, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, W5TOM, W5TKZ, N5VCM, WW5PA, W5VOM, KI5MRF/5 (Richmond), W5RH, KI5HOC, KF5HYU, WA5ANF (T), KE4DRF, W1BD (Katy), KF5PHA, AA5OA (Pearcy, AR), WA4RB (Sebring, FL), N5CI (Francisville, LA), KL5AX (Katy). (19 Check-Ins)
Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 93, SN = 59, A = 7, K = 1 / Band Rpt: Fair

07/28/21, K5LKJ(NCS), K5PGF, K5LJ, K5JPP, WW5PA, N5VCM, W5VOM, W5TKZ, K5IZO, KI5JDC (Livingston), KD5JSM (Lafayette, LA), KF5HYU, K2MPP, W5ALW, KI5HOC, KI5HC (League City), KJ5Y (RCS)(Angleton), KD5FBA, KL5AX (Katy). (15 Check-Ins)
Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 78, SN = 25, A = 14, K = 3 / Band Rpt: Poor

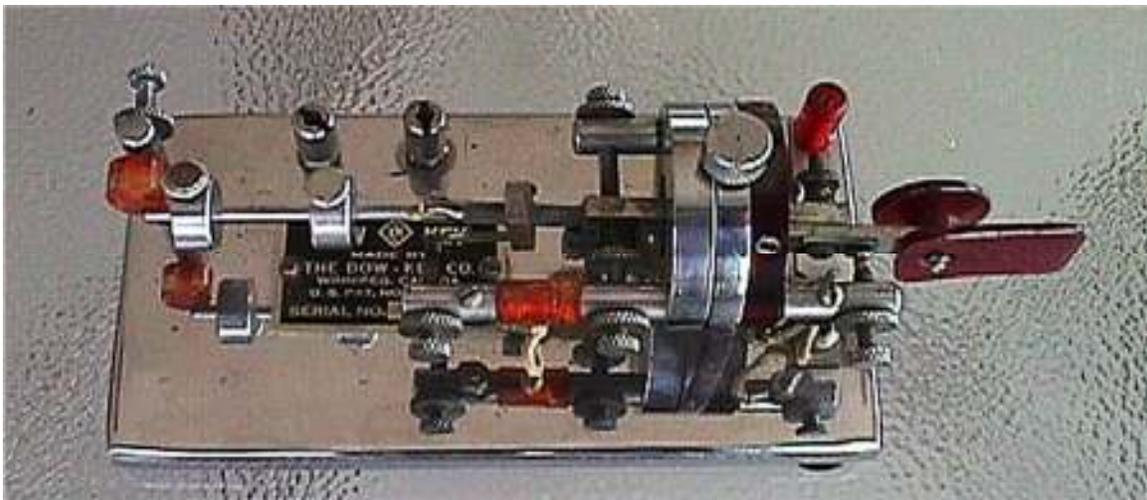
08/04/21, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, K5LJ, W5VOM, KF5HYU, K2MPP, W5JEF, N5VCM, K5HEC, W5ALW, KG5LJZ, AA5OA (Pearcy, AR), KI5HOC, K5TNL (Spring), KA5DMN (Montgomery), KB7QL (Rustin, LA), K5PGF, WX5KR, W1BG (Katy), KL5AX (Katy), K5JPP. (21 Check-Ins)
Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 70, SN = 15, A = 5, K = 0 / Band Rpt: Fair

08/11/21, K5LKJ (NCS), N5VCM, K5JPP, K5LJ, W1BG (Katy), W5TKZ, W5VOM/5 (Port Lavaca), KF5HYU, KI5HOC, W5TOM, AA5OA (T)(Pearcy, AR), K2MPP, W5ALW, NT5SM, K5ONT, KJ5Y (RCS)(Boling Lago), W5RH, WA5ANF (T), WD5L (T), K5TNL (Spring), W5CVT (Cypress).
(14 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 73, SN = 0, A = 7, K = 1 / Band Rpt: Fair

08/18/21, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, K5LJ, N5VCM, K5IZO, KF5HYU, AA5OA (Pearcy, AR), W5TPK (Malvern, AR), WD6CQD (Nederland), KL7AX (Katy), W5RH, WD5L (T), WW5PA/5 (T), W5VOM/5 (T)(Port Lavaca), KI5HOC (T), K5TNL (Spring). (16 Check-Ins)
Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 74, SN = 13, A = 5, K = 1 / Band Rpt: Fair

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

Net conditions have been poor to fair this month. Fire up the rig and learn what others are doing and share in their experiences. Come join in the conversation each Wednesday evening. Regards. John K5LKJ



This "bug" key was made by Dow-Key. Many of the old-timers know Dow-Key because they were big in antenna relays (and still provide them). This key was made only within a few years of 1949. It's unusual feature is that the entire paddle assembly could be rotated along the long axis so the operator was not necessarily depressing the paddles parallel to the table per his preference.

Cutting Through the Static

For Newbies and Everyone Else



Pick Your Poison

Hurricanes, floods and occasional disastrous trips to the “ice age.” That’s life in Texas, and for ham radio operators, these situations are our core reason for existing, whether you’re a Technician or an Extra. ARES is one way to live up to our emergency operations obligations, but there are other ways and some new ideas about disaster preparation. I hope you were able to see the recent BVARC general meeting presentation (8-12-21) by South Texas ARRL Section Traffic Manager Ron Bosch KE4DR. He went into detail about the importance of message handling and the role hams play in getting word out to families for and about those affected by disasters. They need volunteers. Ron is a member of BVARC so you can find his contact info at the BVARC website.

I’d also like to acquaint you with the innovative efforts of hams in northern California. The effort was begun in the aftermath of the wildfire that destroyed the small city of Paradise. The fire made a lot of people aware of how dependent they are on cell phones, and how unreliable they turned out to be in that situation – no way to call for help, no way to warn others, short of a bullhorn. Alan Thompson W6WN and his fellow club members took it upon themselves to help to provide alternative means of emergency communications to area residents. It’s a fascinating story and you can find links to his presentations at his page on QRZ.com.

Random Notes

We are members of a wonderful club. Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club has been growing over the past year, continuing to provide interesting and useful programming for its members. We have continued to thrive. Our club provides a touchpoint where members can find new friends and mentors. So, please take the time to participate in future activities. Common interests bring us together, while working together builds meaningful relationships that can last a lifetime.

And one final thought, you might sometimes feel like your hobby makes you feel like you’re a little weird or a little nerdy to be a ham. But you’re actually in really interesting company. Use Google or the engine of your choice to search the phrase “famous hams” or “famous ham radio operators.” You might just be shocked to discover all the other nerds who are also hams.

73, JP Pritchard, K5JPP

August VE - FCC TESTING SESSIONS RESULTS

Due to the author's work travel requirements, this article is not available at press time. Look in next month's BEACON for a combined report for August and September.



A Trip Down the Mother Road is close as September. Every September, this year it is September 11 thru 19, the Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club Conducts one of the Special Events that I enjoy participating in every year. Special calls can be contacted on most bands and modes from 80 meters and up through 6 meters depending on band conditions and time of day. If you hear them make a contact or many, but kindly watch out for the pileups and LIDS that show up along the Road. Calls will Start with W6A at the end of Santa Monica Pier and end in Chicago all along the Mother Road Calls End with W6V with 2 calls being official Rovers W6S and W6T. Route 66 has a storied history worthy of numerous books, a few songs and Television Series and The Disney/Pixar Movies "CARS". As a history buff, this road peaked the interest of my wife and I as we have studied the places along the road and We have traveled it from Chicago to the Mid-Point at Adrian, TX where it is equal distance to both Chicago and Los Angeles. Covid put our trip to an end until we can complete the journey from Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. There is a National Historic Preservation Organization that is trying to get Route 66 officially listed as a Historic Trail.

Scott Medbury, KD5FBA

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 temporarily virtual via ZOOM on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. If you have signed up for the reflector, you will receive notice and the attendance password, etc. It will also be on the website (above) a few days beforehand.

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, because of COVID and scheduling conflicts, please check the BVARC website for any changes. Masks and social distancing are required.

A Public Service Net is held each Monday at 8 p.m. on the 146.94 (minus offset, PL 167.9 tone) repeater.

During COVID-19 a "Stir Crazy Net" is also held weekdays at 12 Noon on the same frequency as above.

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

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Jeff Greer, W5JEF, greerjw@hotmail.com, Mark Brantana, N5PRD, N5PRD@yahoo.com

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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

September 9, BVARC General Membership Meeting, via Zoom.
September 18-19, Texas QSO Party



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