



BVARC BEACON



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

APRIL 2022

VOLUME 46 ISSUE 4

Ones and Zeros – The New Way to Communicate?

The April meeting will be a presentation on FreeDV Digital Voice for HF. Walter Holmes, K5WH, will explain the format as well as the new modes and future enhancements. Walter does a great job on presentations so make sure you tune into the ZOOM meeting on April 14th at 7 pm. Here is some information from FreeDV web site.

“FreeDV is a Digital Voice mode for HF radio. You can run FreeDV using a free GUI application for Windows, Linux and OSX that allows any SSB radio to be used for low bit rate digital voice.”

“FreeDV is being developed by an international team of radio amateurs working together on coding, design, user interface and testing. FreeDV is open-source software, released under the GNU Lesser Public License version 2.1. The modems and Codec 2 speech codec used in FreeDV are also open source.”



Special upcoming events:

Greater Houston Tailgate – April 16. See detailed article in this issue.

Museum Ships Weekend – June 4 and 5th. See details in the next issue; Mark your calendars now.

The Prez Says

The year is moving by so quickly I can hardly keep up. Before we know it, it will be Christmas again. But between now and then we will have lots of events so let me list a few things for the rest of the year.

First off let me start with the great presentation we had in March on ARISS. Charlie Larrabee did a wonderful presentation on communicating with the International Space state and the equipment that is used. If you missed it, check the BVARC web site for the video. Thanks, Charlie for a great presentation.

Coming up on the April 14th general meeting (ZOOM for this month), we will have our resident Jack-of-all-Trades Walter Holmes, K5WH do a presentation on FreeDV Digital Voice. Check elsewhere in the newsletter for more information. Make sure you don't miss Walter's presentation.

Our May ZOOM general meeting, we will have Bob Heil, K9EID. Bob, a sound and radio engineer, is well known for microphone development as well as sound systems and satellite dishes. Bob's presentation will be on the various microphones he has developed over the years and the other equipment that is used with his microphones. Make sure you mark down your calendar for May 12th for the great presentation. Let's give Bob a great TEXAS turnout!

As always in June, we will have Museum Ships Weekend and Field Day. Museum Ships Weekend will be held at Seawolf Park in Galveston on June 4th and 5th. The event will be coordinated by Mark Janzer, K5MGJ, so give him a call if you would like to help. It's a great event and you can have a great time working it. Don't miss it.

The last weekend in June, of course, is the ARRL Field Day. As usual, we will be holding it as Duhacsek Park in Sugar Land. Anthony Morones, K15LILC, will be the coordinator this year so get with him if you would like to help. BVARC does a great Field Day so don't miss it!

The rest of the year we will have our Ice Cream Social in August and chili supper in November along with elections. Also, in the year there is the Texas City Hamfest in July and the Belton HamExpo in October.

Tentatively, for the July general meeting, we will have one of the lead scientists on the James Webb Space Telescope do a presentation on the telescope and show us some great pictures. Who knows, we might be the first group to see some pictures before they are even release to the public!

As finally, the Great Houston TailGate is coming up on April 16th. There is more info in the newsletter so mark it on your calendar. The TailGate is being held this year in place of the Greater Houston HamFest which will be back in 2023. If you would like to help for the TailGate, contact Mike, N5VCX and me know.

See everyone on the ZOOM call on the 14th.

N5VCX



March VE - FCC TESTING SESSIONS RESULTS

For Saturday, March 5th, we had 5 candidates and conducted 8 tests.

New Licensee:

M. Knerr (Technician)
R. France (Technician)
C. Thomas (Technician)
S. Lam (Technician)

Upgrades:

KE5DI (Extra)

Congratulations to all!

A GREAT, thank you to the VEs in attendance – K5LJ, WX5KR and K5IZO!

The next BVARC test session is **Saturday, April 9th at 10:30.**

The April 9th session is the LAST session where the fee will be \$15. An additional \$35 license fee (totaling \$50), will be collected by the FCC separately, commencing **April 19th, 2022.**

VEs will collect \$15 at the test session and the added \$35 fee will be collected directly by the FCC.

Youth Licensing Incentive Program

The ARRL is creating a youth program (18 and under) to defray the initial licensing costs to \$5 (deducting the \$35 increase and \$10 off the VE session). The ARRL program has not yet been implemented, so VE sessions aren't equipped to handle these youth price reductions.

Also, BVARC is about to implement it's own program for **youth** licensing, starting at the May 7th session. We'll provide a **new VHF/UHF transceiver (Baofeng, limited supply)** at the VE session, to youth that successfully pass their Technician test. This is the result of a very generous grant from a BVARC member (THANKS!)

So, bottom line, a young person with \$5 can walk into a test session and walk out with a new radio and a pending license.

Examination sessions are held each month, usually on the same day as the Saturday BVARC Board meeting (most times, the first Saturday of the month). 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/Text Mark Janzer, K5MGJ at (832) 875-0526 or eMail: (k5mgj@yahoo.com) to pre-register.

MINUTES
Board of Directors Meeting
Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

March 5, 2022 9:00 AM
Via Videoconference

Members Present:

Mike Hardwick N5VCX (President)	Anthony Morones (2 yr at large director)	Chris Luppens KG5BBF
David Ely N5EKW (Treasurer)	Rick Hiller W5RH	Ian Whitcomb
Jeff Greer W5JEF (Cor. Secretary)	Eddie Runner N5UK	
Scott Medbury KD5FBA (2 yr at large director)	Scott Bulkley KI5NPL	

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. Emergency business. None.
6. Approval of Minutes: January and February minutes approved.
7. Approval of Treasurer's Report: Approved as presented.
8. Corresponding Secretary: Report approved as presented.
9. Old Business:
 - Upcoming general membership meetings – March KG5KNO ARISS program. - April TBD
 - Update on Greater Houston Tailgate 2022
 - Update on new general membership meeting site.
10. New Business:
 - Discussion of future club including Field Day.
11. Next BoD Meeting Date: April 9, 2022.
12. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned 9:36 AM.



Needing a Few Volunteers

With approximately 300 members, BVARC is the largest club in the Houston area. With that size, we need people to help for various functions to keep the club moving forward. So, if you are interested in helping, the following positions are now open.

Newsletter Production – This is for one of the steps of getting the newsletter ready for publication. It requires no more than 4 hours a month and easy to do. You will be working with Daphne and Mark on the production team. Living in the Meyerland or Sharpstown or Bellaire area is a requirement.

Advertising – This is for the newsletter and website. This is to coordinate and manage the advertisers that we have for the newsletter and on the website. Only 2 to 3 hours a month are required but you can always spend more time if you want to.

Club Liaison – This is for the newsletter, website, and weekly e-mail blast. You will be contacting Houston area clubs and getting information on their functions for publication in BVARC. In the beginning it may take about 5 hours for the first few months but should drop down to 2 or 3 hours once club contacts have been made.

If you are interested, please contact me. Remember, it takes a dedicated team to keep an organization going.

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, President, BVARC

Greater Houston TailGate – April 16

The time is finally here for the GHTG. Due to COVID issues, the Greater Houston HamFest committee decided this year we will have a small tailgate affair instead of the normal hamfest format which will return next year. Mark your calendars for next year March 3rd and 4th, 2023 for the return of the Greater Houston HamFest.

So, for this year we will have the tailgate will be very basic event. Entry is \$5 dollars whether you are selling or buying. There are 45 spaces for tailgaters and 6 spaces for vendors. We will have food and drinks available at the community center and there will be a raffle at the pavilion. A map of the event area is below as well as the coordinates to find the entrance.

The times for the TailGate is 7 am to 2 pm on Saturday, April 16. It will be held at Duhacsek Park, 17034 Old Richmond Rd, Sugar Land, TX 77498. Friday afternoon set-up is available but there is **NO OVERNIGHT CAMPING ALLOWED**. If you would like to set-up on Friday, please contact the BVARC Board of Directors to arrange access. Talk-in will be on 146.940 with a minus offset and a tone of 167.9.

The raffle will be held on site and tickets will be \$2 each. The grand prize will be a ICOM IC-2730A so make sure you get your tickets. You will need to be present to win. Some of the other things happening at the TailGate are:

Balloon launch by the Houston Balloon Launch Team
Harris County Communications trailer

Fort Bend County Communications trailer
License Testing

If you have any questions about the tailgate, contact anyone on the BVARC Board of Directors.

Hope to see you at the Greater Houston TailGate!



Duhacsek Park, 17034 Old Richmond Rd, Sugar Land, TX 77498

Cutting Thru the Static

A Column for Newbies and Everyone Else

The word “stealth” can be used in a variety of contexts. Stealth bomber or fighter jet, warship, camera, drone or at a more esoteric level, stealth marketing or stealth zombies. I don’t really know what a stealth zombie really is, but I assume it’s like all the others – designed to be as invisible as possible. Oh, and I left one out. For ham radio operators, there are stealth antennas for those who live in strictly regulated housing developments.

I well recall the angst I suffered after I got my general and then my extra licenses. How am I going to get around the HOA rules in my subdivision? I read every article I could find on the subject, looking for a way to use my HF privileges in a way that wouldn’t pit me against the HOA architectural committee. Nobody wants to be called out for a rule violation, especially when you’ve spent a good deal of money that you might have to eat.

So, if this is your fight, here are some ways to analyze your circumstances and get on the air without being hit with a huge buzz kill. We start with a chart developed by the Villages Amateur Radio Club of the sprawling and tightly controlled Villages in Florida. (See link below.) The chart assigns letter grades A through F on a large variety of antenna types, as well as cost and ease of installation.

Villages Antenna Guide															
Antenna	On Air	Stealth	Tuner	Install	Cost	6M	10M	12M	15M	17M	20M	30M	40M	80M	160M
Flagpole	B	A	Remote	D	F	C	B	B	B	B	A	A	C	D	D
Screwdriver	B	B	None	C	D	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	D	D	D
Fishing Pole	B	C	Remote	D	C	C	B	B	B	B	A	A	C	D	D
Trapped Vertical	C	C	Shack	D	D	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	D	D
Palm Tree Cage	B	A	Remote	F	F	C	B	B	B	B	A	A	A	A	B
Rain Downspout	D	A	Remote	C	C	D	C	C	D	D	D	D	D	F	F
Antenna	On Air	Stealth	Tuner	Install	Cost	6M	10M	12M	15M	17M	20M	30M	40M	80M	160M
Dipole	C	C	Shack	B	B	C	C	C	C	C	C	D	D	F	F
Inverted Vee	C	D	Shack	C	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	D	F
G5RV Jr	C	C	Shack	B	B	C	C	C	C	C	C	D	D	F	F
Buddipole	D	C	Shack	B	C	C	C	C	C	D	D	F	F	F	F
Slinky Dipole	D	C	Shack	B	B	C	C	C	C	D	D	F	F	F	F
Helical-Coil Dipole	D	C	Shack	B	C	C	C	C	C	D	D	F	F	F	F
Wound Vert Dipole	C	D	Shack	B	C	B	B	C	C	C	D	D	F	F	F
Fence Dipole	D	A	Remote	C	C	F	F	D	D	D	D	C	C	C	B
TAK-tenna	D	B	Shack	B	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	D	D	F	F
Antenna	On Air	Stealth	Tuner	Install	Cost	6M	10M	12M	15M	17M	20M	30M	40M	80M	160M
Off Center Fed	C	C	Shack	B	B	C	C	C	C	C	C	D	D	F	F
Windom	C	C	Shack	B	B	C	C	C	C	C	C	D	D	F	F
Inverted L	A	B	Remote	C	C	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
End Fed	B	B	Remote	B	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	C	C	F	F
Random Wire	C	B	Shack	B	B	C	C	C	C	C	C	D	D	F	F
Flagpole L	A	B	Remote	C	F	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Rain Gutter Dipole	D	A	Shack	C	C	F	F	D	D	C	C	C	D	D	D
Spiral Dipole	D	B	Shack	B	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	D	D	F	F
Antenna	On Air	Stealth	Tuner	Install	Cost	6M	10M	12M	15M	17M	20M	30M	40M	80M	160M
WL Horz Loop	D	C	Remote	D	D	F	F	D	D	C	C	C	D	D	D
Rain Gutter Loop	D	A	Shack	D	C	F	F	F	D	C	C	D	D	D	F
WL Vert Loop	B	B	Shack	B	B	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	C	F
Magnetic Loop	C	A	F	B	D	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	D	D	D

Continuing ->>>

Ask these questions: What mode or modes do you want to work and which bands are important? You would ask those same questions even if subdivision rules weren't a problem. But the answers to those questions might well dictate the limits of what you're hoping to achieve.

To hear the old timers talk about the golden days of propagation, you could use almost any metal part of your home as an antenna. There are stories about screen door and rain gutter antennas that worked just fine. And to be sure, propagation is finally improving, so a down spout might still work.

Next task is to open your mind to previously unrecognized possibilities in your home and yard. You might find a propagational use for that privacy fence, for a pole mounted bird house, for some shrubbery and/or a tree or two. Perhaps you have an open attic in your home or maybe a second-floor balcony. These all offer potentially sneaky opportunities.

Are you feeling the need for a flagpole? A place to fly "Old Glory?" The Texas Property Code Sec. 202.012 says "a property owners' association cannot "prohibit or restrict" an owner from displaying the U-S or Texas Flags. There is some fine print, but a vertical antenna, carefully disguised as a flagpole, is as good a disguise as the radar proofing on a B2 bomber.

Many apartment dwelling hams are happy to have a balcony. You can sometimes use a climbing plant in the corner as antenna camouflage and you might find that a portable magnetic loop antenna placed outside after dark could work well for you. Mag loops are fun to work with, but they're expensive and on most bands, they are terribly inefficient. Just keep in mind, RF from any source in close quarters can be a health hazard. Keep a safe distance.

Whatever option you decide to try, it's important to remember that amateur radio is a hobby and is supposed to be fun and educational as well. Also keep in mind that perfectionism is a curse. All antenna systems are based on compromise.

You can always spend thousands of dollars on a transceiver, an amplifier or a fancy tuner, but your antenna is where the magic is. They aren't easy to understand but looking for the right one for your circumstance can be very satisfying. Just remember to read your HOA rules before you delve into the process.

I'm no antenna guru, but there are tons of resources available to help you with the fine points, online, via YouTube and through ARRL publications, including the ARRL Antenna Book.

And here are links to the aforementioned and very informative Villages Antenna Guide, as well as stealth antenna ideas from SGC, the maker of reasonably priced remote tuners that can greatly simplify your quest for a great antenna. And check out some stealth antenna ideas from our own recent SK Tom Morton at W5TOM.com.

<https://www.hamfesters.org/main/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Stealth-Antenna-Guide.pdf>

<https://www.sgcworld.com/Publications/Books/stealthbook.pdf>

<https://www.sgcworld.com/Publications/Manuals/stealthman.pdf>

Good luck and have fun!

73, JP, K5JPP

The Feed Point

Getting to Know Fellow Members of BVARC

My name is **Eddie Runner NU5K**. I live slightly west of Houston in Richmond and work for River Oaks Car Stereo on Richmond in Houston. I was lucky to be exposed to radio and electronics practically since I was born. My grandfather told me stories about how he and his brother (W4OGW) used to take the coil off the tractor to send Morse code when they were kids.

I was born in 1957 and I have a picture from about 1959 of me listening to my trusty rocket radio (handheld crystal radio). In the picture I was still wearing my white baby shoes. I got the ear for listening to radio at an early age.

I have always been a listener. In the 60s (elementary school age) I loved to listen to my grandfather's big Hammarlund HQ-One Seventy receiver, which I now own. I would spin that dial for hours and hours and listen intently to every little sound. I still love doing that today on the HF bands.

My dad helped me with my electronics hobbies and stereo. I liked listening to far away AM radio broadcast stations! And in the 1970s my dad helped me with my shortwave, CB and police scanner hobbies, as well as my stereo and electronics pursuits.

When I was old enough to get a job, I started installing stereos and CB radios during the CB craze of the '70s. That evolved into a long career in audio and mobile electronics. Since 1990 I have owned a small store in Houston called River Oaks Car Stereo. We not only sell and install high end audio for cars. But we also install ham radio gear as all employees are hams.

Although I have been a serious listener since I can remember, I didn't get my ham license until 1989. I got my license on a bet with a radio buddy, Michael N5PTN. We bet a steak dinner on which of us would be licensed first. I won the bet, but not by much. Thankfully the bet pushed both of us to get our ham licenses.

And that was a good steak dinner I will never forget! The meal was much enjoyed at the Benihanas in Honolulu, Hawaii. Memorable to say the least!

I am very involved with my local ham radio club. BVARC. I first joined in 1980s before I got licensed. I am now a life member. I also enjoy Field Day, Museum ships Weekend, the annual Greater Houston Hamfest and more.

I am still an avid listener. I listen almost 24 hours a day to local public service as well as shortwave utilities and the local amateur repeaters. 10-10 number 73134. Space Houston on Ten #L248. I always try to support local ham activity!

I have the best wife in the world. We married in 1976 when I was 18 and have always been best friends. And yes, we share the ham radio hobby. Suzanne is an extra class KF5GWZ (gee whizzz).

Suzanne and I met on CB radio in 1975. Both of us had CB radios in our cars. We got married at our CB club meeting and the ceremony was broadcast on CB airwaves in the Sharpstown area of Houston, near where we grew up.

My son Eddie Jr KB5OBB, and daughter Patricia K5PLR, are also hams. To me, radio has always been FUN!

Two Silent Keys, Silent Too Soon

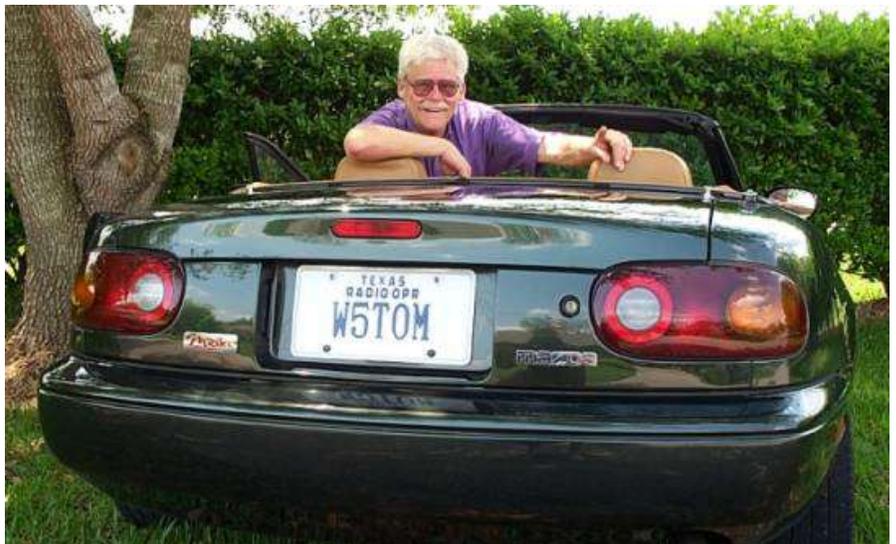
Tom Morton – W5TOM (SK)

I met Tom many years ago and he has been a friend ever since. He was always doing something slightly esoteric with ham radio like building his own microphones or generating a web site (w5tom.com) that teetered on the brink of being slightly bazaar, but humorous, with an outreach of the curmudgeon hiding within. Tom liked to talk, so Ham Radio was right up his alley and had been for many years with a start in the St. Louis area as WD0FDJ, and then KB0AP. Old photos show shack stations of tube type Swan or Drake equipment running at times AM and then SSB and, of course, always CW. He wasn't the fastest CW Op, but Tom liked the casual conversational speeds of just over 20 WPM. Straight keys, paddles or bugs were the tools of his QSO's. Although, phone was the mainstay of his conversions, as it allowed him to expound on the topic of the day, of which there were many, ranging from technical to political.

Tom was a photographer by profession, being hired by the Teen Beat type magazines of the 60's and 70's to hang out with the rock and roll groups that came into town and photo-document their stay in St. Louis. The likes of Herman's Hermits, the Monkees and even the Beatles graced the lenses and film platen of his Nikon 35mm and even his large format Hasselblad.

Although he did many cool things in his time in Ham Radio, the one that most impressed me was the simplest. For getting his RF out of the shack and to the antennas he used regular 120 volt AC outlets and plugs. This made it easy to disconnect his radios from the antenna farm in the back yard. Adapters were built for coax to the 120 V male plug and the antenna coax was connected to the female outlets mounted in the wall. Of course, all well marked so that no mistake was made in connecting a 120 volt appliances to the antennas or vice versa. All this was for HF, so his measurement of the Z bump or SWR bump was minimal.

Tom was given the BVARC 2010 Loop and Zepp award for his work on HF Antennas. He was a regular attendee of the Saturday morning breakfasts for many years. The current venue, being the iHop, was where he headed up the table with the royalty that the head seat deserves. We will certainly miss his ham radio knowledge insight, his twisted humor and his curmudgeon's view of our blurry world. Echoes of W5TOM haunt the 80 M Rag Chew Net weekly. RIP W5TOM



Some W5TOM things to read and ponder:

Patented a portable HF antenna – reference Patent # 4,642,650

See ARRL's QST on-line Archive: March 2003 – Of Mics and Men & Feb 2004 The Well Adjusted Ham

Dan Gannon – WA5ANF (SK)

I met Dan a few years back when Susan, his XYL, contacted the club to see if someone would help with clearing some ham radio gear. I, of course, put my hand up, as Dan and Susan lived in the West Chase area just blocks from my daughter and family. I quickly found out that wheel chair bound Dan had had a stroke and was no longer able to partake in Ham Radio activities, except for listening. Dan's stroke had taken its' toll on one side of his body and also on his ability to express himself. But, with the help of Susan and a fair amount of patience on both sides, he communicated his desires.

Dan was throughout his life a CW aficionado and his key, paddle and bug collection was quite extensive. Long story short, I was able within a few months to clear Dan's gear with a few local hams and to provide back ample funds to purchase an HF receiver. His antenna was a multi-band Carolina Windom, but it had been damaged in one of the hurricanes. With the help of K5IZO and his antenna launcher, we were able to get the support line re-deployed in the front tree,. After which I got busy rebuilding and re-erecting Dan's skyhook.

For a few years after, Dan checked in to the BVARC Rag Chew Net by calling in as a phone check-in (I happened to be the phone check-in person). I knew it was Dan by his Caller ID but all I heard after answering with "Hello Dan, got you checked in", was a simple "OK. OK". It was always a pleasure to hear Dan's voice, no matter how stymied.

Dan had an interesting past in radio. Susan told me that even as a kid in Port Arthur he always had a ham radio station. This led him to become Radioman 2nd Class during the years of the Vietnam conflict. His crowning glory was his operation of the MARS (Military Affiliate Radio Service) station assigned to his group. (See photo). His West Chase shack wall was covered with certificates, telexes and memos of thanks and kudos for his efforts in MARS. According to one USAF Brigadier General, Geoffrey Cheadle, Dan's efforts "contributed significantly to the morale and wellbeing of our forces away from home" . Another telex from Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines Landing Team September 1969 stated that Dan had set up HF gear on Hill 41 and placed and completed 98 calls over 3 days for the Marines on the hill thru stations in Honolulu and Barstow, CA. When the Arizona Museum honored US Senator Barry Goldwater for his MARS work a few years back, Dan acknowledged that he had spoken a few times directly with Senator Goldwater himself, K7UGA. Senator Goldwater's Phoenix based MARS station was a major gateway to the US for thousands of service personnel deployed in SE Asia.



Dan passed a few months ago. Last time I saw Dan was in 2021 when he was having trouble receiving anything on his receiver. What I found was that due to his lack of control of his fingers, etc. he accidentally hit a few buttons that changed his antenna input selection to one that had no antenna connected. An easy discovery and fix for me, but a brick wall for Dan.

I am very glad to have known Dan, but I do wish it could have been under better circumstances. We would have been great Ham Radio friends. My best and warm wishes to Susan, who has always been 150% supportive of Dan's hobby and also of my efforts to achieve Dan's goals in what he wanted and needed. Note that even after a stroke that limited his two way radio activity, ham radio and a simple receiver gave Dan the capability to listen to shortwave and the ham bands. This provided a source of joy for him until the very end. I'll echo the words of John, K5LKJ, here, "It IS the greatest hobby. WA5ANF DE W5RH 73 K.

BVARC Rag Chew Net

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

02/23/22, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, W5VOM, K5PGF, KE4DRF, W5SV, W5TKZ, K5LJ, N5VCM, W5ALW, WW5PA/2F (Cayman Is.)(R), KI5HOC, KG5ICR, AA5OA (Pearcy, AR), KB5TWL (St. Martinville, LA), KA5QQA. (16 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 96, SN = 38, A = 6, K = 1 / Band Rpt: Good

03/02/22, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, W5TKZ, K5LJ, W5VOM, W5ALW, KI5HOC, W5RH, WD5L (T), KI5HC (League City), KG5ICR, N6AHB (Porter), KA5QQA, KF5PHA, K5IZO, AA5OA (Pearcy, AR), KI5OYC (Cypress), AA0ST (Dickinson). (19 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 99, SN = 65, A = 65, K = 2 / Band Rpt: Good

03/09/22, W5TKZ (NCS), K5LKJ, K5JPP, KE4DRF, W5TKZ, W5VOM, KI5HOC, K5LJ, W5ALW, KG5ICR, N5VCM, WW5PA/5 (Austin)(M), W5RH, AA5OA (Pearcy, AR), AA0ST (Dickinson), KI5HKN (Pinehurst), WD5L (T). (16 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 115, SN = 93, A = 5, K = 1 / Band Rpt: Good

03/16/22, W5TKZ (NCS), W5WES/5 (Baytown), KI5HOC, W1BG (Katy)(M), WW5PA (AUSTIN)(M), KI5HC (League City), W5VOM, W5ALW, AA5OA (Pearcy, AR), KB4KTF (Austin), AA0ST (Dickinson), KD5YOU, W5RH, WD5L (T). (15 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 110, SN = 71, A = 6, K = 2 / Band Rpt: Good

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

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



Hamfests

(typically within 200 miles of Houston)

04/16/2022

Greater Houston Tailgate or the GHT.

Location: Duhacsek Park

Sponsor: Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Website: www.bvarc.org

07/09/2022

Tidelands Hamfest

Location: Texas City, TX

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Tidelands Amateur Radio Society

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

06/17/2022 - 06/18/2022

Radio Fiesta

Location: Schertz, TX

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: San Antonio Radio Club

Website: <https://w5sc.org/>



Editor's Note: The list of officers, advertising info and eating info is not published every issue. Please go to www.bvarc.org for this information or look at a recent past issue.

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

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

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

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

VOLUME 46, ISSUE 4

April 2022

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

April 14, 2022 – General Membership Meeting

April 16, 2022 – Greater Houston TailGate



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