



# BVARC BEACON

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



JULY 2022

VOLUME 46 ISSUE 7

## July 14<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting

The planned program on the James Webb Space Telescope has been postponed. The two lead managers that I had scheduled for the Zoom meeting will not be able to make it at this time. So in place of JWST, the next meeting will have a surprise. Hopefully it will be an X-tra special one. It **appears** that it will be at the Volunteer Fire Department like in June, plus on Zoom, but **please check** the Reflector and the BVARC Website as the date approaches for these and other updates.

See you on the 14<sup>th</sup>!

N5VCX

Submitted by Mike Hardwick, N5VCX



Editor's Note: The "Super Deal" we had with Office Depot for BEACON printing has been cancelled (to all business customers). We are working feverishly on getting a new deal that exists for business customers. Accordingly, until then, the resulting costs for this issue would apparently be prohibitively expensive, so we are producing this shortened BEACON, hopefully this month only.



## Prez Says

Well, the month of June is finally over and it has been busy. With Museum Ships Weekend at the first of the month and Field Day the end of the month, BVARC has been extremely active. These activities are keeping the hobby alive, and the club involved in the community.

Museum Ships Weekend was active, especially with the DX this year. Six operators worked on Friday and Saturday on the USS Stewart making contacts all over the US. Check the article elsewhere in the newsletter for more detailed information on the event. I want to thank Mark Janzer, K5MGJ for coordinating the event again.

Our general meeting had a great program presented by Rick Hiller, W5RH on the operation of the Elecraft K3 which is the preferred radio for the BVARC Quad club Field Day. Rick's presentation explained the general operation of the radio and why it works the best when surrounded by other sources of high-level RF. Rick, thanks for a great program.

The rest of the general meeting was the planning and preparation for Field Day. Anthony, W5LIC and Kori, WX5KR did a fantastic job on the plans for Field Day.

I want to thank Jimmy Vance, NA5D, for arranging the use of the Community VFD community center. BVARC should have more meetings in this location in the future.

Finally, we had the Quad Club Field Day. This year BVARC worked with KARS, TDXS and the University of Houston ARC to put together the largest FD event ever. With over 125 people walking through the door on Saturday, making it the largest FD in Houston and possible the state. Check the newsletter for more information on the Quad Club Field Day. I want to thank Anthony, W5LIC and Kori, WX5KR for coordinating a magnificent event and getting the word out across Houston. I also want to thank the volunteers & participants who made the event possible.

Just a quick note, we had \$900 donated to the club for Field Day expenses. I want to thank those individuals for their help for the club. Of course, we need to thank Bill Cordell for his donations for the manlifts, tower trailer and tee-shirts.

The July 14<sup>th</sup> general meeting program of the James Webb Space Telescope will not happen. My original contact was not able to make it and the NASA PIO department in Washington did not have anyone available either. So, the program has changed to a SURPRISE. Hopefully, the surprise will be X-tra special!

Also do not forget the BVARC Ice Cream Social on August 11th. More to follow on the web site.

73,  
N5VCX



## **Museum Ships Weekend – June 4, 2022**

Submitted by Mark Janzer, K5MGJ

We operated aboard the Galveston Naval Museum ships the evening of Friday June 4<sup>th</sup>, through Saturday morning. Two of us overnighted on the USS Stewart. Our operation was limited due to pre-scheduled overnight groups that weekend.

We had both, the USS Stewart and USS Cavalla station & the SS Selma station, inside the aft berthing area of the Stewart. From there, we were able to run transmission lines through the deck. Sufficient AC power was available at our operating location, so generators (and mosquitos) were absent and the air conditioning kept us cool.

The Stewart & Cavalla HF station was a Yaesu FT-7100 to an end fed antenna hung from an anti-aircraft gun and the ship's yardarm. It proved to be the stalwart operation, with those on it putting in yeoman's service through the wee hours Saturday morning. The SS Selma station was a FT-891 to a 20m hamstick. The hamstick was able to reach a station in Moscow and also to Pearl Harbor (100 watts).

We found that 20 meters was the most active and conditions on the other bands were marginal. For the low QSO count (42 total), we had amazing DX. Stations from Moscow to Japan, Puerto Rico and Canada. Notable sister museum ships we contacted included USS Missouri (Pearl Harbor), USS Nautilus (CT), the Elissa (across the Galveston ship channel), USS Little Rock (NY), SS Col. James M Schoonmaker (OH), and USS Turner Joy (WA).

Many thanks to those attending and operating: K5IZO, KS5V, W5XUK, KG5BBF, KF5BMZ, and K5MGJ.

We're developing a lessons learned and wish list for next year. There are several significant items we'll want to work on for the next event, including getting the Cavalla's antennas in ship shape condition.

# Field Day Report

This year's Field Day was a quad-club event with BVARC, KARS, TDXS, and the University of Houston ARC. With our Field Day Coordinator Anthony (W5LIC) and me as his assistant (Bonus Point Coordinator), we had the best Field Day numbers in the club's history. Our team made 4,298 contacts, and our preliminary score is 15,290 points. Including our bonus points, we believe our overall score could be nearly 17,000. We had a great crew on Friday who braved the triple-digit heat to setup our antennas and get the radios and computers ready. This year we had 8 K3s and 2 IC-7300s for our 10A class stations, a K3 for our 6m station, 3 antenna towers, and the Fort Bend County EmComm Trailer operating as our GOTA station. We could not have achieved this without the generosity and hard work of so many who lent their equipment (radios, computers, cables, antennas, etc.) and gave their labor to get us set up and ready to operate. I want to say thank you to all who contributed.

Saturday started off with a much enjoyed antenna build class taught by Scott (KI5NPL). Fifteen participants built End-Fed Half-Wave antennas and many onlookers were there as well to share in the fun and education of the class. Operations began at 1pm, with all stations manned and on the air. We had over 125 visitors on Saturday, including youth from the Boy Scouts and the Civil Air Patrol. The turnout this year was the best in club history (totaling approximately 200 over the entire weekend), and we thank all who took time to come by. Another highlight of Saturday was our satellite QSO at approximately 9:35pm local time via the RS-44 satellite. Operations continued non-stop throughout the night Saturday and into Sunday; we had nearly a dozen operators there at all times operating SSB, CW, and digital. Sunday morning we were visited by KPRC news, they filmed a piece on our Field Day event, which aired later that evening.

The event would not have been complete without the excellent meals served by Daphne (K5VQY) and Scott (KD5FBA). They served sandwiches prepared to order, 25lbs of barbeque, coleslaw, baked beans, lasagna, and more (great German chocolate cake Daphne). It was a fantastic event, and I'm proud to have been a part of it. Again thanks to all who made this event possible, and we hope we will have an even better event next year!

- Kori, WX5KR



## Hamfests

(typically within 200 miles of Houston)

**07/09/2022**

### Tidelands Hamfest

**Location:** Texas City, TX

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Tidelands Amateur Radio Society

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



Editor's Note: Due to space limitations, the list of officers, advertising info and eating info is only published every few months. Please go to [www.bvarc.org](http://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](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 temporarily virtual via ZOOM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.bvarc.org)

Other contacts include:

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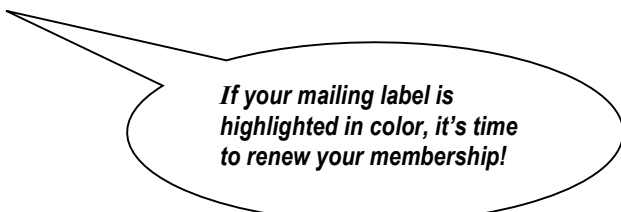
July 2022

**BRAZOS VALLEY  
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

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July 14 – General Membership Meeting



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