



# BVARC BEACON

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



OCTOBER 2022

VOLUME 46 ISSUE 10

## General Membership Meeting notice

7:30 PM, Thursday, October 13, 2022.

Community Volunteer Fire Department conference room;  
16005 Bellaire BLVD

**NOTE: This meeting will be both live- in-person and via Zoom.**

The featured speaker will be Bob Heil, K9EID. Mr. Heil founded and owns Heil Sound. Probably more than 50% of BVARC members have headphones or headsets made by Heil Sound. He will be presenting via Zoom. If you are on the BVARC Reflector, you will receive the meeting Zoom information roughly a week before the meeting, but hopefully you can go to the in-person meeting and be with others and see it on the big screen.



## The Prez Says

With the Greater Houston HamFest coming up in March, I wanted to see what was done in the past for the GHF and before. So I spent some time going through the old newsletters and unfortunately it made me feel really OLD. What it did was also show me that the club has really worked hard over the last 45 years (yes, the club is 45 years old) to promote the club and hobby. So many people over the last four plus decades have put so much time, effort and energy for this great hobby. Without them, BVARC would have never survived.

Coming up in October for the general meeting will be Bob Heil, K9EID. Bob will be there to answer your questions on audio issues, playing the organ or whatever you want to throw at him. Bob is a great guy and I want to thank him for being spending time with us. The meeting will be a face-to-face as well as a Zoom meeting. Unfortunately, Bob will only be visiting us in electronic form.

The November general meeting will have our annual Chile supper and elections. Daphne Rawlinson and her crack team will be providing and serving the chili. Rick Hiller, W5RH will be coordinating the elections. So, if you would like to help either Daphne or Rick, let them know. More information on both will be in next months newsletter.

Hopefully in December we will have the return of the BVARC Homebrew night (no, its not beer). Bring out the best of the equipment you have built whether kit or from scratch. There will be prize for both categories so get the soldering irons heated up and build that hand-held 1000- watt amplifier! If you would like to enter the contest, please contact me to register your work of art!

We will be having the BVARC banquet again on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023. It is still being organized so stay tuned.

Don't forget the Greater Houston HamFest on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

See you at the October general meeting! N5VCX

# **The Radio Hotel – A Gander at Coax Connectors**

by Rick Hiller – W5RH

We always talk about coax -- RG-58, RG-8X, RG-213, LMR-400, etc. -- and we highlight the differences in loss, power handling, etc. But, we seldom talk about PL-259, SO-239, BNC, N, and SMA -- the connectors at the end of our coax. Why are there different types? A short jaunt down specification history lane will provide some answers.

**UHF Connector** -- we use the male PL-259 and the female SO-239 for HF use. Invented in the 30's with a maximum use frequency in the UHF range, BUT -- current recommendation is to limit the frequency range to less than 150 MHz. It is rated to about 500 watts, although some use it with more power at HF, but it must be de-rated proportionate to frequency and line SWR (a peak voltage restriction). Another important consideration for the UHF connector series is that impedance can vary from 25 to 70 ohms, but an impedance bump at HF is not so critical. Loss generated within the PL-259/SO-239 junction is very low at HF. Use high material quality connectors to avoid trouble.

**N-type** -- a step up from the UHF connector series, it keeps a constant 50 ohm Z across the connection, therefore, eliminating an impedance bump. Frequency range is below 11GHz and power handling is max at 1000W, again de-rating is in play. Since there is no impedance bump, loss is minimized. N's are also water-resistant, as they have O-rings to seal the coax entry, etc. A bit of Trivia -- it is an N-connector due to being invented by Fred Neill at Bell Labs. (No, not the Fred Neil that wrote "Everybody's Talkin At Me")

**BNC** (An abbreviation for **B**ayonet, **N**eill, **C**arlson) -- BNC, designed for the military, is another constant 50 ohm connector, used mostly in low power situations like on a test bench between devices or on QRP type receivers and transmitters. However, power is good to 500 watts and frequency range is good up to 2 GHz. There is a **TNC** connector which uses "Threaded" connectors, replacing the bayonet fastening system. It is good for use up to 10 GHz.

**SMA** -- Ham Radio equipment within the last 25 years has become smaller and more prolific in the upper UHF and SHF ranges. Smaller means that the inputs and output connections need to be reduced in size and the SMA connector fits the bill. It is a constant impedance connector and the dielectric of the coax goes all the way to the connection point of the connector. It provides isolation into the -100dB range and frequency use up to 24 GHz, depending on the quality of the construction.

The easy part is using all of these connectors. The hard part is assembling these connectors onto the coaxial cable ends. One way to ease the assembly burden is to spend a bit extra and get high quality, pre-made cables, especially on the smaller connectors, like BNC or SMA. For the larger connectors PL-259, SO-234, etc., which are easier to work with, take a look at the ARRL Antenna Handbook or the Radio Amateurs Handbook for detailed instructions of how to assemble these onto your coax.

Once a connector is on a cable, it is easy to change the gender or series with readily available adapters. These adapters come in all configurations -- Male to Female, Male to Male, etc. and will adapt between series like N to BNC, BNC to SMA, etc. Be warned, there can be high losses within these adapters. Multiple adapters, stacked in series, will build up significant losses very quickly.

If you are interested in learning more about connectors, have a look at the following magazine columns:

VHF/UHF World -- Sept & Oct 1986 **Ham Radio magazine**

Micro-wavelengths -- November 2004 **QST magazine**

Learning Curve -- October 2013 **CQ magazine**

If you need help in obtaining these articles, send me an e-mail -- [rickhiller73@gmail.com](mailto:rickhiller73@gmail.com)

## SEPTEMBER VE - FCC TESTING SESSIONS RESULTS

For this Saturday session, the FCC-ULS was updated on the following Monday, less fee payments if required.

For Saturday, September 10th, we had 9 candidates and conducted 12 tests.

### New Licensees:

Barnwell, K. (Technician) (youth+radio)  
Bucklew, D. (Technician)  
Ford, M. (Technician)  
Johnson, D. (Technician)

### Upgrades:

KI5WNN (Extra)  
KI5WSX (Extra)  
KI5NPM (Extra)  
KI5WXL (General)

Congratulations to all!

VEs in attendance – K5GOL, K5LJ, KG4NDS, KJ5EMP, W5LIC, WX5KR, N1ER and WM5N – **THANKS!**

The next BVARC test session is **Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30.**

**For new licensees the testing fee, paid at the session is \$15. An additional \$35 license fee (totaling \$50), will be collected by the FCC separately for new, renewal and vanity calls.** License upgrades **do not** pay the added \$35 fee, just the \$15 session fee.

## YOUTH LICENSING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The ARRL has created a youth program (18 and under) to defray the licensing costs to a total of **\$5** (deducting the \$35 increase and \$10 off the \$15 VE session fee). See: <http://www.arrl.org/youth-licensing-grant-program>

Also, BVARC is implementing it's own program for **youth** licensing.

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

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

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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 <https://bvarc.org/home/ham-radio-license-testing-houston/>

Pre-register to attend a test session at: <https://hamstudy.org/sessions/arrl/77008/inperson>

For questions, Email Mark Janzer, K5MGJ at ([k5mgj@yahoo.com](mailto:k5mgj@yahoo.com)).



## November Club Elections – Soliciting Candidates

Most of the current BVARC Board of Directors (BOD) members will finish their terms as of December 31<sup>st</sup>.

We are seeking candidates for the following BOD positions for 2023, etc.

Vice President	Term – 2023 thru 2024
Corresponding Secretary	Term – 2023 thru 2024
Recording Secretary*	Term – Immediate as of election night thru 2023
Treasurer	Term – 2023 thru 2024
1 Year at Large/Past President	Term – 2023
2 Year at Large	Term – 2023 thru 2024

Should you have an interest in running for any of these positions or you have questions as to what is involved, please contact me: Rick – W5RH @ [rickhillier73@gmail.com](mailto:rickhillier73@gmail.com)

*\*Recording secretary is a special case due to the resignation of the former holder*

# The Feed Point

## BVARC Members, How we Got Here

### KG5ICR, Steve Clark

Being a new member of BVARC has really helped me advance my ham radio capabilities. I find that every meeting point leaves me with something I did not know before. If I try to thank all the members who have helped me along and what they have done, it would fill up this page. Let me just say that I'm sure you know who you are, and please know how much I appreciate it.

I was a late-comer to ham radio, and did not achieve my Technician license until 2017. Even so, my interest in radio started in the early 1960's when my father gave my brother and me an old shortwave radio to play with. We strung a long wire to a tree in the back yard, and ran it through the window into the room we shared. Very often I would fall asleep to the warm glow of the tubes and strange voices coming in to northwest Texas late at night from across the world. As a young teenager, I had a little transistor radio and late at night would listen to WLS out of Chicago, a world away from where I lived.

It wasn't until 1977 that I was formally introduced to ham radio. Prior to that, I had no idea what it was. A family friend, now a silent key, gave me a ride from Albuquerque to Lubbock. I was amazed how he used an "autopatch" to make a telephone call to his wife from his mobile radio. But 1977 was also when adult life started happening. Earning a degree in engineering, a first job, marriage, and raising a family became my priorities. Ham radio was to wait some more years.



*Doing ham stuff, having fun*



*In front of a 9m diameter tunnel boring machine, Sao Paulo Metro Line 4*

My working career began as an engineer in coal fired steam-electric power plants. With deregulation in the 1980's came rationalization and "right-sizing". Watching good friends lose their jobs for no good reason, and seeing the writing on the walls, it was time to seek better opportunities. That's when the railroad industry found me, and I made one of the best decisions in my life.

In the railroad business, my elevator pitch became "I design new railroads, and solve problems on existing ones." I became a technical specialist in vehicle-track and wheel-rail interactions, and the work took me all over the world with projects in the UK, Europe, Africa, Australia, and North and South America. I spent four years living and working in England, and over 20 years traveling back and forth to Brazil.



Retirement came for me a little bit early due to COVID and the downturn in the economy. But it was timely, and I'm very much enjoying this "third phase" of my life. I especially appreciate having the time to work on all my projects now.

It was in Brazil that I became good friends with Jorge Secall PY2MX, an electrical engineer and accomplished ham radio operator. Through our conversations and his encouragement, I studied for and passed the Technician exam in 2017. I've now advanced to General and Extra.

My favorite parts about the hobby are building and fixing things. I've homebrewed all my HF antennas, and a few VHF/UHF antennas, all of which worked, some better than others. I've also built a number of lithium ion battery packs, to include a 13v 35 AH battery pack for portable radio operations, and 55v 20AH battery that I use for my home-brewed electric bicycle.



*Working in the Control Room, Sao Paulo*



*Building a LiFePO4 battery pack*

My current rig is a Yaesu FT-991 connected to a home-brewed 80m dipole and a Comet GP3. The 80m dipole is soon to become a fan dipole, with the intent of including 40m and 20m. I'm also privileged to have an Alpha 76 amplifier that was previously owned by Mel Thatcher KB5ION, now a silent key. I understand he was a very accomplished ham, a true gentleman, and well known and liked in BVARC. Hopefully, I'm giving his beautiful old Alpha the respect and honor it deserves.

You can usually find me on the Monday night net, the Wednesday Rag Chew, and some days on the Stir Crazy net.

I enjoy visiting with folks about their projects, and hearing what others have tried and learned. If we meet, please tell me about whatever ham project you are working on.

73, Steve KG5ICR



*In the shack*

**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club**  
September 10, 2022 11:30 AM  
Via Videoconference

Members Present:

Mike Hardwick N5VCX

(President)

Jimmy Vance NA5D (Vice  
President)

David Ely N5EKW (Treasurer)

Jeff Greer W5JEF (Cor. Secretary,  
Rec. Secretary pro tem)

Anthony Morones (2 yr at large  
director)

1. Call to Order: The President called the meeting to order at 11:45 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.
  - Bayland facility renewal planned
  - Banquet scheduled for January 20, 2023
6. Approval of Minutes: July meeting minutes were approved.
7. Approval of Treasurer's Report: Approved as amended.
8. Corresponding Secretary: Report approved as presented.
9. Old Business:
  - October meeting: Bob Heil
  - November meeting: chili supper and elections
  - December meeting: homebrew night?
  - January: banquet
10. New Business:
  - Ham radio night at the Space Cowboys: September 17
  - Membership engagement/retention strategy was discussed.
  - Hamfest mtg September 11 via Zoom.
11. Next BoD Meeting Date: October 8 at 9 AM on Zoom.
12. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned 12:49 PM.
- 13.



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NUSK - Eddie KBSYTA - Dwayne KBSOBB - Eddie Jr KF5RKJ - BLake W5LIC - Anthony	

# BVARC Provides Wide Area Support

BVARC is known as a general-purpose amateur radio club. That means we, as an organization, supports many events and functions for the amateur radio community. The club has provided From the MS150 Bike ride as a sponsor to scholarships to schools to support for contests.

One of the events that BVARC supports is the Texas QSO Party sponsored by the Texas DX Society. BVARC provides financial support for the purchase of the first-place winner plaques for the contest and has done this for many years.

I would like to congratulate the three First Place Winners 2021 Texas QSO Party categories that received plaques specifically sponsored by BVARC..

Jim Burrough, N5DTT – Texas Single-Operator Phone Low Power

Victor Paul, WB0TEV – Texas Mobile Single-Operator Phone

Robert Wilson, W5LO - Texas Single-Operator Phone High Power



If any other club is needs similar support, please contact the BVARC BOD and submit a request.

## **A Visit to The Huntsville Hamfest**

### **Submitted by Anthony Morones, W5LIC**

My trip to the Huntsville Hamfest was a great trip. I really enjoyed the park we stayed in and the town itself was amazing. Our 13 hour trip began on August 17 and took us through Louisiana, Mississippi, and finally to Huntsville, Alabama. The following morning we arrived at the cabin in Monte Sano State Park, just 15 minutes away from the location of the Hamfest.

The park was the highlight of the stay. The first spot we visited was the overlook where I saw mountain tops just above the clouds. At that point I got out my G90 and my EFHW and did a POTA activation. We then went to our cabin, unpacked, and fell asleep for a bit. The next morning, we visited the GigaParts Headquarters store. That was another amazing visit, I really enjoyed the store. I saw lots of interesting radios, lots of wonderful computers, and even one that was set up with a driving simulator. We also saw lots of cool toys and antennas. Then we went back to the park to visit with a few YouTubers that I had gotten to know, and meet a few more of them. We ended the night filled with anticipation for the Hamfest.

Entry into the Hamfest began at 9am, so we decided to get there around 10am. The parking was good (& only \$10). We got our tickets and walked in with absolute amazement. I dropped my ticket into the raffle barrel (This was for the door prizes and the grand prize) and then started my walk through the wonderful vendors there. All the big guys were there, Icom, Yaesu, FLEX Radio, etc... plus a few others. There was also a section for the kiddos to watch and play with robots as well as had a soldering class. The flea market was just next to the regular vendors. They had license testing as well. I had a great conversation with an ARRL representative there about how to get some younger operators in the hobby. He told me about a grant that he has been working on that would bring teachers into the hobby, and help them to bring younger hams into the hobby.

GigaParts had a nice setup. They had a prize challenge to see how long you can hold up two trigger PTT buttons. The grand prize was \$1000. The first-round winners got to spin a wheel for some great prizes as well. Some of the vendors there included HRO, ABR, BridgeCom Systems, The Signman, etc.: The list of vendors goes on and on. The tailgate/flea market had some great gear and was full of some good projects. The talk-in station was great. I got a chance to meet with Tom-W5KUB and his wife, Kathy. They were really nice. Kathy got me to say hello to a friend on the live stream. She got me to say hello to a friend on the live stream. They were doing the live stream during the whole event, catching some people, and asking them to say hello to their friends and family. They also had a live chat set up. I took this opportunity to look at radios made by the major vendors. Icom had a wall of radios that was in front of their booth. There were so many radios on the wall that were lit up like a Christmas tree. Yaesu had all their functioning radios on display on a table. FlexRadio had their SDR radio set up; it looked great. There was so much to look at I didn't know what to do first. I felt like a kid in the candy store. I wish I would have had more money, much like everybody else. I only walked away with a 12AH Bioenno battery. It will be a great addition to my portable station. I did get to build a great wish list/birthday present list. It was a great time. I know that if we put the work into it, we can eventually grow into something similar to the Huntsville Hamfest with our Greater Houston Hamfest.

There were a lot of things I saw and did while I was there. But that is beyond the scope of this article. I hope this has given you a glimpse of the Huntsville Hamfest. I am glad I was able to see this and bring this back for y'all to read. 73



**Where in the World is Fogo Island . . .**  
**(VE1, VA1, VO1, VY1)**  
**CQ Zone 5 ITU Zone 9**  
**IOTA NA-198**



Fogo is the largest of the offshore Canada islands of Newfoundland and Labrador. Fogo island encompasses the Town of Fogo encompasses the communities of Joe Batt's Arm, Seldom, Little Seldom and eight others, oddly named communities. The island had a population of 2,244 in the [2016 census](#).

The Flat Earth Society of Canada named Fogo one of the four corners of the Earth. It is an island attached to an island attached to the mainland. The closest commercial airport is Gander, Newfoundland, which is even further north. From Gander it is a three-hour drive to the Fogo car ferry. Stepping off the ferry onto the island is like stepping into another dimension.

Fogo Island is not so much a place as a state of mind. With a long maritime history, it's a world of

bright-colored houses, sea-cliff footpaths, lush forest, and warm hospitality. The island's 11 settlements are located along the rocky coast. The annual Great Fogo Island Punt Race to There and Back takes place in July and August.

The ferry runs seven days a week but is occasionally canceled for maintenance. Never fear, there is no lack of places to visit. You can start at Stag Harbor, drive to Seldom, and from the center of the island you can visit the village of Joe Batt's Arm.

Punts have been a fulcrum of life since Europeans chasing cod settled on the island, which had previously been used in summer months by the indigenous Beothuk people. Without roads or motorized vehicles, the punt was key to transportation. Locals used the utilitarian vessels to get to church or appointments, to collect mail and groceries, to pick up their dates, and, most critically, to hunt and fish.

In 1911, a Marconi Company radio station was once operational atop a hill near the town of Fogo; operating with a spark-gap transmitter to establish maritime communications. The station was forced to close around the time that radio became common for household use as the spark-gap design generated unacceptable levels of radio interference. Efforts to rebuild this station as a [historic site](#) commenced in 2002. It opened in 2007 as a museum.



The most recent DXpedition was conducted in 2014 when K4KGG/VO! Operated for four days in August. No record of their possible participation in the annual Punt Race to There and Back.

**Where in the World is . . . .**  
**Sovereign Military Order of Malta (1A)**  
**CQ Zone 15 ITU Zone 28**

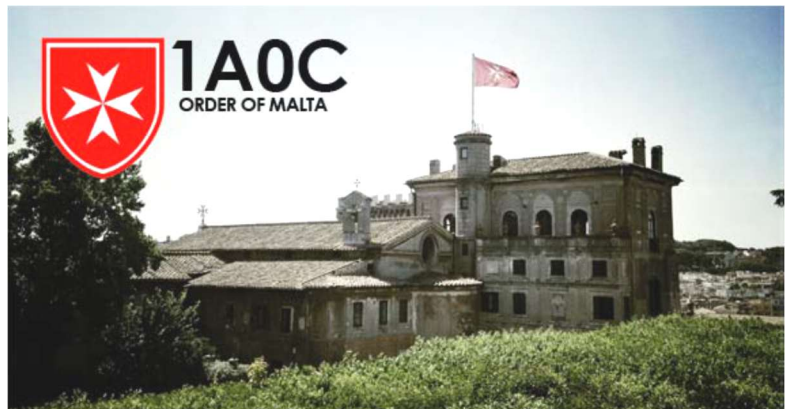


This DXCC entity is unique in that it occupies only two buildings in the city of Rome, Italy. Its headquarters are recognized by the Italian government as sovereign territory. The Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM) is a sovereign subject of international law, with its own constitution, passports, stamps, and public institutions. The 79th Grand Master, Fra' Matthew Festing was elected Head of the Order for life on March 11th, 2008. The Order has diplomatic relations with 104 countries – many of which are non-Catholic –and missions to major European countries, as

well as to European and international organizations. The Order of Malta is neutral, impartial, and nonpolitical.

While the International Telecommunication Union has granted radio identification prefixes to similar quasi-sovereign jurisdictions like the United Nations and the Palestinian Authority, SMOM has never received one. For awards purposes, amateur radio operators consider SMOM to be a separate "entity." Stations transmitting from there use an entirely unofficial call sign, starting with the prefix "1A".

SMOM is the modern continuation of the original medieval order of Saint John of Jerusalem and later as the Knights Hospitaller. The group was founded in Jerusalem around the year 1050 as a hospital to provide care for poor and sick pilgrims to the Holy Land. After the loss of Christian held territories of the Holy Land, the order operated from the island of Rhodes (1310–1523), and later from Malta (1530–1798). Though this state came to an end with the ejection of the order from Malta by Napoleon Bonaparte, it retains its claims of sovereignty over Malta under international law and has been granted permanent observer status at the United Nations.



According to Club Log, 1A0 is the 93<sup>rd</sup> most wanted DX entity. Most amateur radio activity in 1A comes from DXpedition in conjunction with the Order's charitable activities. The last planned Activity was from a team in July 2019

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

## 2022 Officers:

President (2022-2023)  
Michael Hardwick, N5VCX  
[n5vcx@att.net](mailto:n5vcx@att.net)

Vice President (2021-2022)  
Jimmy Vance, NA5D

Recording Secretary (through elections in Nov. 2022)  
Jeff Greer, W5JEF  
[greerjw@hotmail.com](mailto:greerjw@hotmail.com)

Corresponding Secretary (2021-2022)  
Jeff Greer, W5JEF  
[greerjw@hotmail.com](mailto:greerjw@hotmail.com)

Treasurer (2021-2022)  
David Ely, N5EKW  
[Davidely@prodigy.net](mailto:Davidely@prodigy.net)

2 Year At-Large Board Member A: (2022-2023)  
Anthony Morones, W5LIC

2 Year At-Large Board Member B: (2021-2022)  
Scott Medbury KD5FBA  
[smedbury@windstream.net](mailto:smedbury@windstream.net)

1 Year At Large (2022)  
Sheree Horton, WM5N  
[sher5456@gmail.com](mailto:sher5456@gmail.com)

### Regularly Scheduled Club Happenings:

#### General Meeting

Both in person and zoom  
Second Thursday each month. 7:30PM  
Check [www.BVARC.org](http://www.BVARC.org) for more current info.

#### Board of Directors Meeting

The Saturday before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 9:00 AM  
Both in-person and Zoom  
Bayland Park Community Center  
Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston.  
Check [www.BVARC.org](http://www.BVARC.org) for more current info.

#### 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. The meeting location is open, however please check the [www.BVARC.org](http://www.BVARC.org) for 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

Stir Crazy Net is held each weekday at noon. Check [www.BVARC.org](http://www.BVARC.org) for current info.

Greater Houston Simplex Net 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, propagation net, 7:00 PM, on 146.54 MHz simplex and an alternate frequency of 147.54.

QuestionAIR every Thursday at 7:00 PM on 146.94, negative (-) shift, PL Tone of 167.9.



### **Advertising in the BVARC Newsletter**

Rates are as follows: Business card sized ads are \$10 each or 6 monthly installments for \$50; Half (1/2) page -\$25 per month for \$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**

**Most of these events have lifted any mask requirements. Check with the respective entity to see the actual status.**

### **SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST**

IHOP, 7:00a.m., SW Freeway inbound service road, near Kirkwood.

### **OTHER HAM GROUPS:**

#### **WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH**

This group has resumed meeting weekly at Luby's Cafeteria, W. Airport & FM-1092 (Murphy Rd). 11AM.

#### **WEDNESDAYS – AMSAT & QRP GROUP**

This too is not available at press time. If anyone has information on this, please let the Editor know.



## **Hamfests**

(typically within 200 miles of Houston)

**As this issue goes to press, the only Hamfest known or published that is within 200 miles of Houston and within 6 months is our own as follows:**

**03/03/2023 - 03/04/2023**

### **Greater Houston HamFest - ARRL Texas State Convention**

**Location:** Rosenberg, TX

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Brazos Valley ARC

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

For those that are familiar with San Antonio having their Radio Fiesta in January, they changed their schedule due to COVID and apparently are staying with June. The final information will probably be published early in the year.

At this point, we have heard nothing about Austin Summerfest, but assume it will be in August of 2023. Again, it's way too early to get final information.

# 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:

President:, Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, [n5vcx@att.net](mailto:n5vcx@att.net)

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