



BVARC BEACON

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



JANUARY 2023

VOLUME 47 ISSUE 1

**No General Membership Meeting in January (as per precedent).
Yes, there is the Annual Banquet on Jan. 20. See the special article in this issue.**



BVARC Winter Field Day 2023

Where:
Brazos Bend State Park
21901 FM 762 Rd
Needville, TX 77461

When:
January 28th - 29th 2023
(From Saturday at 10am
until we wrap up on
Sunday afternoon)

Winter Field Day 2023 is fast approaching, and in case you missed it, BVARC is officially participating! We will be camping out at Brazos Bend State Park on January 28th through the 29th operating five HF stations for the entire 24-hour contest period. The modes we will be set up to operate include voice (SSB), CW, and digital (RTTY, JS8Call, VarAC, etc.). Our goal is to assemble a portable operation in the park running on emergency power only and operate as many modes and bands as we can.

In order to achieve this, **WE NEED YOU** to operate our stations, log lots of contacts, and make BVARC a top contender in this worldwide contest! No matter your license class or experience level, you can come and operate at our stations using the club call sign with help and guidance from your fellow hams. You can come by and operate for a few hours, or camp with us overnight (see details below). We hope you will join us for a great time practicing emergency radio operation, having some delicious food, and enjoying the company of your fellow hams.

Details about BVARC's WFD event:

- We have rented two screened shelters at Brazos Bend State Park and will be operating and camping at those locations for the duration of the event.
- Talk-in will be on the 146.940 MHz repeater to provide directions to the park and our campsite. Also the park rangers will be aware of our event and can direct you to our site.
- A sign-up sheet for operators and volunteers is posted on the BVARC website (BVARC.org). Operating slots are listed in one-hour increments, and those who sign up first will have priority when selecting bands during their time slot.
- We have a limited number of overnight camping space at *our* sites (you may rent your own if available). If you would like to camp with us please put the name of all campers on the sign-up sheet. You will also need to bring your own tent and/or sleeping bag.
- The contest hours are 1pm CST Saturday January 28th to 12:59pm CST Sunday January 29th. Of course we will work in a little Parks on the Air a few hours before and after the WFD contest hours if you'd like to participate in that as well.
- All five HF stations will be ready to operate on SSB and will have a PC with logging software and digital mode software. You do not need to bring any radio equipment.
- Lunch Saturday will be hot dogs (veggie option available), dinner will be a few different curries and rice (prepared by me), and breakfast Sunday morning will be coffee, pastries, and maybe even kolaches!
- Standard day use fee of \$7/person applies (free if you are a Texas State Park Pass holder). Please see tpwd.texas.gov for further details about park admission.

So mark your calendars and come **GET ON THE AIR** with BVARC for Winter Field Day 2023! If you have any questions about this event please reach out to me (WX5KR) at Kori113@gmail.com or Anthony (W5LIC) at W5LICTX@gmail.com. **-Kori, WX5KR**

Prez Says

As I write this, I am looking forward to a blistery cold night of 17 degrees! What a great time to sit at home and work HF. Hopefully I will be able to work a few countries tonight!

Like I said last month, the Greater Houston HamFest is around the corner on March 3rd and 4th with Museum Ships and Field Day a few months later. There will be several other functions coming as well. Beginning on January 10th, **Brews with BVARC** will be starting at the St. Arnolds Brewing Company. It will be at the brewery on 2000 Lyons Ave in Houston at 6:30 pm. So, make sure you make it to the opening for the newest club get together.

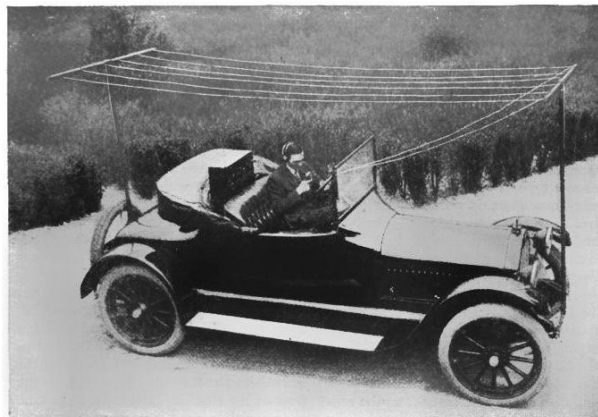
Then on January 28 and 29th, 2023, BVARC will be participating for the first time in the Winter Field Day event. It will be under the leadership of Anthony, W5LIC and Kori, WX5KR and will be held at Brazos Bend State Park. It is a little different from the June ARRL Field Day, but it should be lot of fun for everyone. If you would like to help and get involved, contact Anthony or Kori.

Don't let me forget to mention the December 8th Home Brew night. The number of people entering was light, but everyone had a great time. Some of the items displayed were a home-built battery pack by Steve, KG5ICR, an easy digi-kit by Gus, K5GMB and a Swiss knife type of multi-purpose connector adapter by our club treasurer, Dave, N5EKW. The ZOOM part of the meeting had Rick, WD5L who had a list of items that he built a mile long. The list of equipment is unbelievable but I but it may have included a kitchen sink! The prizes ended up going to a future new ham that, unfortunately, I lost his name. Hopefully he will be back in the future to join the club.

As some of you know, I sometimes get behind on club duties. One of those duties from the past was presenting John, K5LKJ, an award. So, on December 8th, 2022, John finally received his 2009 Loop and Zepp award. I want to thank John for his hard work promoting HF by overseeing the Rag Chew net for the last 16 years!

Finally, don't forget the annual BVARC banquet on Friday, January 20th, 2023. More information is in the newsletter. John Robert Stratton, N5AUS will be the guest speaker. Mark your calendar for the event!

And for those folks that want to run HF in their cars, here is a great example of a clothes-line array!



73,
N5VCX



2022 BVARC Awards Banquet

It is just around the corner, The 2022 BVARC Awards banquet. It will be on January 20th, 2023, at the Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet Street, Houston 77074 between 6:30 pm and 9:00 pm. There will be a meet and greet starting at 6:30 pm with dinner being served at approximately 7:15pm.



The banquet will cost a member and one guest **\$35 per person.** **Non-members or a second guest will be \$50 per person.** Tickets are available at the BVARC.org PayPal link. The menu for the night is:

Pan Seared Catfish or Grilled Chicken Breast

With

Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Sauteed Green Beans

Garden Salad with Mixed Greens

(Ranch and Italian Salad Dressing available)

Rolls

Desert

And

Iced Tea and Lemonade

Please purchase your ticket by January 10th so we can get a final count for the caterer.

This banquet, besides having great food, is a time to honor club members that have excelled in the club and supporting amateur radio. The awards are:

The **LOOP AND ZEPP** – A club member excels on promoting HF operation

The **K1JT** – A club member excels on promoting VHF and UHF operation

The **DOCTOR BILL** – A club member excels in their service for amateur radio testing

The **ORDER OF THE KEY** – BVARC's highest honor - A club member excels in supporting the club and amateur radio.

If you have someone that you would like to nominate for an award, please let someone on the board of directors know. **All nominations must be received no later than January 6th.** There can be multiple winners of all awards except for the Order of the Key. **Let us give those who have promoted various aspects of the hobby the recognition they deserve.**

And finally, our guest speaker will be John Robert Stratton, ARRL West Gulf Division Director. John will be able to give us insight into the ARRL and what they are doing to help the amateur radio hobby.

BVARC Rag Chew Net

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

11/23/22, K5LKJ (NCS), W5VOM, KI5HOC, K5LJ, WA5CYI, K5TPC, KG5ICR, WX5KR, KD5YOU.
(9 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 113, SN = 63, A = 4, K = 1 /Band Rpt: FAIR

11/30/22, K5LKJ (NCS), K5TNL (Spring), KI5HOC, K5LJ, W5VOM, K5TPC, KG5ICR, W5SV.
(8 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 108, SN = 58, A = 25, K = 4/Band Rpt: FAIR

12/07/22, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, K5JPP, KI5HOC, K5LJ, WW5PA/5 (M)(Fort Worth), W5VOM,
KD5YOU, KG5ICR, K5TPC, K2MPP, W5SV. (12 Check-Ins)
Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 148, SN = 109, A = 19, K = 3 / Band Rpt: FAIR

11/14/22, K5LKJ (NCS), K5LJ, W1BG (Katy), K5IZO/5 (Jasper), K5RBC (Lake Jackson), K5TPC,
W5ALW, N5AV. (9 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 153, SN = 174, A = 4, K = 1/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



NUSK - Eddie
KBSYTA - Dwayne
KB5OBB - Eddie Jr
KF5RKJ - BLake
W5LIC - Anthony

River Oaks Car Stereo

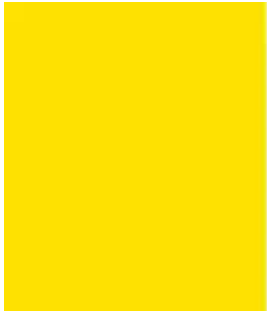
Since 1990
4129 Richmond Ave
Houston TX 77027

713-626-7627 -
help@riveroakscarstereo.com

riveroakscarstereo.com

Where in the World is. . .

Vatican City (HV)
CQ Zone 15 ITU Zone 28



Vatican City: the smallest independent nation in the world is a landlocked country surrounded by the city of Rome, Italy. A mere 109 acres, it is smaller than most Texas ranches, but it holds sway over more than 1,329,000,000 baptized Catholics worldwide. Yes, they really keep a count.

Only half of the less than 1000 residents have citizenship. Mainly members of the Church's diplomatic Corps. The rest hold temporary residential rights to live on Vatican land.

The Holy See dates to early Christianity, with the Apostle Peter being the first pope. After 1377, the popes have mainly resided at the Apostolic Palace within

what is now Vatican City. There have been 265 popes since Peter. The Vatican state became independent from Italy in 1929 with the Lateran Treaty between the Vatican and Italy, its government known as the Holy See. The Vatican City State is an ecclesiastical monarchy ruled by the [Pope](#) who is the bishop of Rome and head of the Catholic Church. The highest state functionaries are all Catholic clergy of various origins.

Vatican City contains religious and cultural sites such as St. Peter's Basilica, the Sistine Chapel, and the Vatican Museums. They feature some of the world's most famous paintings and sculptures. Vatican City has no taxes and items are duty-free. As the Holy See, it derives its income from the voluntary contributions of more than one billion Roman Catholics worldwide, as well as interest on investments and the sale of stamps, coins, and publications. Banking operations and expenditures have been reported publicly since the early 1980s.

Vatican City has its own telephone system, post office, gardens, astronomical observatory, radio station, banking system, and pharmacy, as well as a contingent of Swiss Guards responsible for the personal safety of the pope since 1506.



The Swiss Guards really are Swiss. To be a member you must be male, 5feet, 6 inches tall. Be a Swiss Citizen between 19 and 30 years of age; single and completed Swiss military service. The Guard serves as both an honor guard and a security service for the Pope.

HV5PUL is active since 1997 at the Pontifical Lateran University in Vatican City. You can get information about QS postal costs and their QSL policy. Also check their website www.hv5pul.info.

According to the CLUB LOG website, www.clublog.org Vatican City is ranked 105th on their Most Wanted list. QRZ.com only lists fifteen licensed hams with the HV prefix

Reporting from the Dark Side,
Ron Litt, K5HM

Reporting from the Dark Side,
Ron, K5HM



As this issue goes to press, the minutes for the December Board of Directors are not available.

Due to various reasons, The Radio Hotel is not available this month. Look for it to return next month.

December VE - FCC TESTING SESSIONS RESULTS

For Saturday, December 3rd, we had 7 candidates and conducted 13 tests.

New Licensees:

Adelung, R (Technician)
Cook, L (Technician) (Youth)
Harding, M (Technician)
Samuelson, I (Technician)
Yenik, M (Technician)
Suvorov, A (General)

Upgrades:

KI5YSS (General)

VEs in attendance – K5GOL, K5LJ, N1ER, and WX5KR – **THANKS!**
Congratulations to all!

The next BVARC test session is **Saturday, January 7th 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.

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).



BVARC BEACON update.

Pretty much all the data required to determine costs and labor for the options for the BEACON (Printed/mailed vs e-copy e-mailed and variations in-between) have been researched. Various options (transparent to the members) will be tried during the next 2 or 3 months. We should have a determination immediately after the Hamfest.

2023 Officers:

President (2022-2023)

Michael Hardwick, N5VCX, n5vcx@att.net

Vice President (2023-2024)

Kori Rahman, WX5KR kori113@gmail.com

Recording Secretary (balance of 2022 – 2023)

Mike Manciaz -- W5SPC, michael.manciaz@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary (2021-2022)

Jeff Greer, W5JEF, greerjw@hotmail.com

Treasurer (2021-2022)

David Ely, N5EKW, Davidely@prodigy.net

2 Year At-Large Board Member A: (2022-2023)

Anthony Morones, W5LIC, W5lictx@gmail.com

2 Year At-Large Board Member B: (2023-2024)

Drew Dasher, N1ER, Adasher18@hotmail.com

1 Year At Large (2023)

Terry Leatherland, K5PGF, K5pgf@yahoo.com

Regularly Scheduled Club Happenings:

General Meeting

Both in person and zoom

Second Thursday each month. 7:30PM

Check www.BVARC.org for more current info.

Board of Directors Meeting

The Saturday before the 2nd Thursday, 9:00 AM

Both in-person and Zoom

Bayland Park Community Center

Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston.

Check 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 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 for current info.

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

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

Editor's Note: Will all the officers and directors and others listed, please check the above information and let the Editor know. It will be corrected for the February issue.

Advertising in the BVARC Newsletter

Rates are as follows: Business card sized ads are \$10 each or 6 monthly installments for \$50; Half (½) 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

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

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

OTHER HAM GROUPS:

WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH

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

WEDNESDAYS – AMSAT & QRP GROUP

This too available at press time. If anyone has information on this, please let the Editor know. Otherwise, this listing will be dropped in an upcoming issue.

Hamfests

(typically within 200 miles of Houston)

02/25/2023 - Orange (Texas) Hamfest 2023

Location: Orange, TX

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Orange Amateur Radio Club and Jefferson County ARC

Website: https://www.qsl.net/w5nd/index_files/HAMFEST%20NFO/hamfest%20info

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>

03/11/2023 - Acadiana DX Association Hamfest and Swapmeet

Location: Rayne, LA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Acadiana DX Association

Website: <https://www.kn5grk.com/ADXA%20Hamfest>

06/16-17/2023 - Radio Fiesta,

Location: Schertz, TX, suburban San Antonio.

The webpage says - "Further details and what will transpire on each day will be available in the spring of 2023."

Website: <https://w5sc.org/radio-fiesta/>

Austin Summerfest - As of the date of publishing this December BEACON, 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. 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 both in-person and via ZOOM on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 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 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.

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

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.

The QuestionAIR Net is held every Tuesday at 7:00 PM on 146.94, negative (-) shift, PL Tone of 167.9.

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: Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, n5vcx@att.net, , Daphne Rawlinson, K5VQY, daphne_rawlinson@hotmail.com, Jeff Greer, W5JEF, greerjw@hotmail.com, Gokhan Koralturk, KG0KHN, gokkor@gmail.com

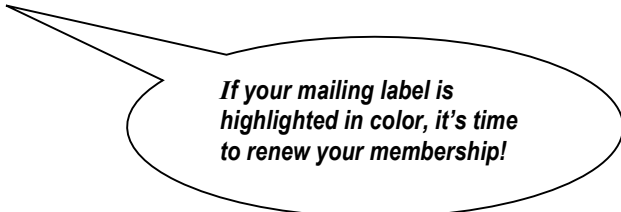
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January 2023

**BRAZOS VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 2997
SUGAR LAND, TX 77487-2997
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

January 20, 2023 – BVARC Annual Banquet



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