



# BVARC BEACON

Newsletter of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY



VOLUME 47 ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2023

## September General Membership Meeting Notice

Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 7:30 PM

Community Volunteer Fire Department Conference Center, 16005 Bellaire Blvd and via Zoom

The hurricane season is upon us as I write this with Idalia getting ready to hit Florida and three other storms in the Atlantic. With the possibility of a storm hitting Houston (that never happens...right?) a monthly program geared toward amateur radio support seemed appropriate. So instead of kit building and soldering the program was changed to **Generators – The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly**.

So come out to the general meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup> and hear from Mr. Sparky himself Richard Driscoll, KD5URB, explaining how generators work, don't work and everything else he can explain. Richard is a retired engineer from GE power systems so there is a good chance he is familiar with generator operations and the finer points of having one – or not having one.

Don't forget we will have pulled pork sliders with chips and Rice Krispie Treats to soothe an empty stomach. Hope to see you at the meeting, either in person or on ZOOM. – N5VCX



### BVARC Bright Stars



Last month I started naming club members that have not been in the spotlight for all their hard work for the club and the amateur community. Hence a new series for the newsletter called "BVARC Bright Stars".



Scott telling the food team at Field Day that next year that he will bring Big Macs for everyone!

Throughout the year, there are many club members that work hard behind the scenes. Last month I named John Denison, KD5YOU as a "BVARC Bright Star" for his work on emergency communications. This month I am naming Scott Medbury, KD5FBA, for his hard work in many areas of the club and the amateur radio community.

Currently Scott is working on the BVARC food team. He has been supporting the club in this area for over ten years, starting with hosting the Ice Cream Social. Both Scott and his wife Lou Ann are now working with Daphne Rawlinson, K5VQY,

on food preparations for Field Day, the Ice Cream Social, and the month meeting meals. Talking to Daphne about Scott she said "...he is an invaluable member of the food team and that is why he is the co-chair".

Besides Scott making sure the food preparations are done correctly, he has helped in other areas as well. Over the last fifteen years, Scott has been a director on the BVARC board helping the club with his leadership skills and insight (of course the president sometimes just ignores him! Hi Hi).

Scott also started the Ham Radio night at the Sugar Land Skeeters (now the Space Cowboys) baseball games. Scott organizes the night with the Space Cowboys so hams will be mentioned on the scoreboard and PA system.

I also want to mention that Scott's wife Lou Ann and his daughter Kelli, KG5QJE, have been helping the club as well. So hats off to Scott and his family for everything they have done for BVARC and the amateur radio community.

– N5VCX



# The Prez Sez

What a great Ice Cream Social last month. Daphne and her team did a great job and they deserve a big thank you. Hopefully a few of you were able to eat the chocolate covered grasshoppers!

Now with the Ice Cream Social behind us we can get ready for the rest of the year.

**September Generators – Everything You Want to Know**

**October Hot Spots – Do's & Don'ts**

**November Chili supper & Elections December Home Brew Night**

**January Annual Awards Banquet**

And of course, don't forget other functions the club has such as Parks on the Air, Brews with BVARC, Winter Field Day, Museum Ships Weekend, and the ARRL Field Day.

Mentioning Winter Field Day, January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, it will be held at Duhacsek Park this year. The location has already been reserved and the BVARC Food Team is ready to go. If you would like to help on Winter Field Day, drop Anthony Morones, W5LIC a line and let him know.

A change in plans for the September meeting. Originally it was going to be about kit building and soldering but the program will now be presented by Richard Driscoll, KD5DRB, on everything you would ever want to know about generators. I sat in for a portion of Richard's program at an ARES meeting at TRANSTAR and immediately knew that it would be perfect for BVARC. With hurricane season upon us, knowing about generators would also be something useful and educational. So come out for Richard's great program. If you cannot make it, it will be streamed on Zoom.

Don't forget the BVARC food team will be serving pulled pork sliders with chips and Rice Krispies treats.

Greater Houston HamFest planning meetings will be starting September (I ran out of time last month) so if you are interested on being on the planning committee or helping, drop me an e-mail at n5vcx@att.net. The GHHF will be a two-day event again this year and will be held on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. It has been confirmed that Ham Radio Outlet will be back and hopefully one or two new equipment vendors.

Do not forget the Belton Hamfest – Ham EXPO on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The event is a great one to attend and I know many people in Houston go to the event. Hope to see you there.

I came across this attic antenna installation for weather satellites on 137 MHz. You can tell the person that installed it is concerned with safety since they put safety flags on the elements!

73,  
N5VCX



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## Ham Exam Question

On what frequencies are spread spectrum transmissions permitted?

- A. Only on amateur frequencies above 50 MHz
- B. Only on amateur frequencies above 222 MHz
- C. Only on amateur frequencies above 420 MHz
- D. Only on amateur frequencies above 144 MHz

*(answer can be found later in the newsletter)*



# The Radio Hotel — Conductors for Grounding

(Note: The following information was plagiarized, with permission, from [www.GeorgiaCopper.com](http://www.GeorgiaCopper.com) )

**FLAT COPPER BRAID** Braid's greatest advantage is its flexibility. Braid is the conductor of choice where flexibility is required. It is sometimes used for electrically bonding parts of a vehicle, for example an exhaust pipe, door, or hood. At tower sites, braid is good for bonding swinging gates or doors to a ground system - flexibility is a must in such an application. Braid also has some degree of popularity for bonding amateur radio equipment to a common ground buss because of its flexibility. Some people question the effectiveness of braid at radio frequencies. The argument is that each strand of the braid weaves in and out, back and forth across the braid. Currents must either follow that inductive weaving path, or "jump" from strand to strand where strands touch. There are of course many individual strands in parallel, so overall inductance should be low. And another question to consider is, with so many points of contact between strands within a length of braid, could there be a potential for noise in a critical RF environment? In braid's defense, one should keep in mind that coaxial cables for RF applications have traditionally been made with a braided outer conductor (for its flexibility), and it has worked well. On the other hand, it is interesting to note that high performance, low-loss coaxial cables use a solid outer conductor rather than a braided outer conductor. Georgia Copper stocks only tinned braid, because oxidation between various strands of bare (un-tinned) copper braid could seriously degrade its performance.

**FLAT COPPER STRAP** Strap's greatest advantage is its surface area. Copper strap (or strip) is the conductor of choice for low impedance RF ground connections. Due to the skin effect, RF currents tend to flow along the outside "skin" of a conductor. Copper strap has a large, smooth surface area to take full advantage of this effect. For decades, copper strap has been widely used in the RF ground systems of broadcast sites. Lightning - Assuming lightning current is strictly DC, any copper conductor of similar cross-sectional area should conduct lightning current equally well. However, research has shown that lightning is a series of DC pulses with a fast rise time. Conductors with lowest inductive reactance and largest surface area, such as copper strap, should be strongly considered when choosing conductors to handle the fast pulses of lightning current. There's one great benefit of copper strap that is seldom mentioned. In a typical ground system, multiple ground rods are driven and interconnected with bare copper wire or copper strap buried just below the surface of the soil. If copper strap is used for this purpose, the large surface area of copper strap in contact with the soil can enhance any system of ground rods and help lower overall ground resistance. For example, an 8-foot length of 2-inch copper strap would have just as much surface area in contact with the soil as an 8-foot, 5/8" ground rod! And that's only considering one side of the strap! Copper strap's greatest disadvantage is that it is slightly more difficult to install and connect than wire - for example, to go through a wall, one simply has to drill a hole for wire and push it through. Strap requires a little more effort.

**COPPER WIRE** Wire's greatest advantage is that it is readily available and easy to use. Wire is the conductor with which we are all most familiar. Of the three types of conductors described on this page, wire is the easiest to install and the easiest to connect. Wire is readily available. Bare copper wire that is solid (as opposed to stranded) in the sizes of 4 AWG and 6 AWG is commonly used as safety grounds for home electrical panels. These sizes of wire are also convenient for basic grounding of amateur radio equipment and for very basic lightning protection grounds. Larger sizes, such as 2 AWG and up, are often used for lightning grounding and bonding. Larger wires are typically stranded instead of solid because a large wire that is solid is difficult to bend. Smaller wire (typically 10 AWG) is commonly used for radials around vertical antennas. An AM broadcast tower usually has 120 radials made of 10 AWG bare copper wire, each at least ¼ wavelength long, buried around the base of the tower in a pattern like the spokes of a wheel. Wire's main disadvantage is that it is round! It has less surface area than strap or braid, and, therefore, is less efficient at handling RF currents where a low impedance ground path is needed, such as from a common ground buss or antenna tuner to a ground system. For example, a 4 AWG wire and a 1.5" x .022" strap have the same cross-sectional area (equivalent circular mils), and they're made from the same amount of copper, but the 1.5" strap has 4.7 times the surface area of the wire.

Enjoy your hobby – 73....Rick W5RH

## Charlie Prochaska KG5KV (SK)

BVARC Life Member Charlie Prochaska, KG5KV, became a Silent Key at the end of this past June. Although not very active in the recent decades, Charlie was a very active member of BVARC in the 80's and 90's, being presented the coveted BVARC "Loop and Zepp" award in 1991 for his HF antenna work. He was always talking antennas on the 145.47 MERA repeater on the morning and evening drive times, along with stopping at a What-a-burger for his daily jalapeno laced breakfast burger. In that time period, discussions and a wide spread implementation of the Full Wave Loop, both Quad and Delta, were causing all types of experimentation with a lot of the BVARC membership. (Note: it got my interest up causing me to design, build and use many loop style antennas)

Charlie once told me a funny story about his loops. He had a large Oak tree in his yard in the Tanglewilde section of SW Houston. In the early 90's he had strung up a delta loop for 20 meters in the tree. Every time he got on 20 mx he had a pipeline of calls and QSO's with many of the hams in the Ukraine. This went on for quite a few months. However, a hurricane came through and it took out his delta loop and a fair amount of the tree's vegetation. Charlie tried to re-erect the delta loop in the same exact configuration, but he was never successful in configuring it to work the Ukraine hams ever again.

Charlie had a weekly phone sked with his longtime friend Meralda Warren, VP6MW, on Pitcairn Island in the Pacific. Sunday evenings on 15 meters would find them chatting and coordinating shipments of supplies that the Pitcairn colony needed. It took a few months to deliver supplies, from staging here at the Port of Houston to the delivery to the island.

Charlie traveled as a Professional Engineer all over the world and Ham Radio was his link to those travels when he returned home. RIP KG5KV. Rick -- W5RH

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### September 2023 – Amateur Radio Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>P:</b> Pub Svc Net 8 PM Mondays	<b>Q:</b> QuestionAIR Net 7 PM Tuesdays	<b>R:</b> Rag Chew 7PM Wednesdays	<b>S:</b> Stir Crazy Net Noon Mon-Fri	1 <b>S</b>	2
3	4 <b>P S</b>	5 <b>Q S</b>	6 <b>R S</b>	7 <b>S</b>	8 <b>S</b>	9 FCC Testing Bayland Park 10:30 AM, ARRL VHF Contest
10 BVARC Board Meeting 5 PM – Zoom, ARRL VHF Contest	11 <b>P S</b> ARRL VHF Contest	12 <b>Q S</b>	13 <b>R S</b>	14 <b>S</b> BVARC General Meeting 7:30 PM	15 <b>S</b>	16 Katy Area Safety Fest 10AM - 3 PM
17	18 <b>P S</b>	19 <b>Q S</b>	20 <b>R S</b>	21 <b>S</b>	22 <b>S</b>	23 Bayland Park Classroom <b>Available 9A-1P for your session</b>
24 POTA Brazos Bend 10AM-5PM	25 <b>P S</b>	26 <b>Q S</b>	27 <b>R S</b>	28 <b>S</b>	29 <b>S</b>	30

**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club**  
August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 5:00 PM Via Videoconference  
**Board Members Present:**

- President – Mike Hardwick – N5VCX
- Vice President – Kori Rahman – WX5KR
- Cor. Secretary – Jeff Greer – W5JEF
- 2 Yr. at Large (B) Director – Drew Dasher N1ER
- 1 Yr. at Large Director – Terry Leatherland – K5PGF

**Guests Present:**

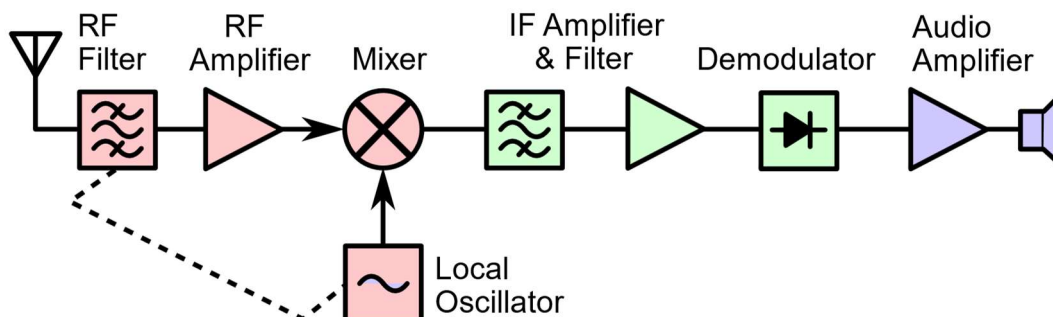
- Jorge WK5J
- Scott KD5FBA

**Meeting:**

1. Establishment of a Quorum: A business quorum of Board Members was established.
2. Call to Order: The President called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM.
3. Club President's Opening Statement: The President thanked those in attendance for taking the time to join the meeting.
4. Emergency business (none).
5. Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved.
6. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the previous Board of Directors meeting were approved.
7. Approval of Treasurer's Report: Tabled until next meeting.
8. Corresponding Secretary: Report approved as submitted.
9. Old Business:
  - Programs
    - i. August
      1. Ice Cream Social – Entertainment Committee
      2. Ham Radio Trivial Pursuit
    - ii. September – Kit Building and Soldering
    - iii. October – Hot Spots
    - iv. November – Elections/Chili Supper
    - v. December – Homebrew Night
    - vi. January – Annual Awards Banquet
  - Committees to begin meeting soon
10. New Business (none).
11. Next BoD Meeting Date: September 10<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM on Zoom.
12. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned 5:36 PM.

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Random Radio Stuff: Superheterodyne Receiver Block Diagram



## Did You Know...

**Did you know** the 146.940 repeater output is only 30 watts? At 650 feet it doesn't take a lot to cover greater Houston.

**Did you know** the 146.940 repeater in Houston has a three-minute timer?

**Did you know** you could (**and should**) set your radio's timer to three minutes as well (some radios allow the timer to be set with individual seconds while others are set with the time in 10 second or 30 second steps). This would help everyone from "**making their life miserable**".

**Did you know** there is a feature that many radios have called BCLO which stands for "Busy Channel Lockout". There are other names and abbreviations for it depending on the radio manufacturer. The feature prevents you from transmitting when someone else is talking. The only drawback to this feature is the repeater hangtime or squelch tail also activates it.

**Did you know** there are 11 repeaters in Texas on 146.940? The closest four are:

Vidor	100 miles East of Houston	Lufkin	130 miles N of Houston
Austin	145 miles WNW of Houston	Fort Worth	245 miles NNW of Houston

If you didn't know, these repeaters follow the distance guidelines of the Texas VHF FM Society. This guideline states that repeaters can no closer than 70 miles on the same frequency (unless arrangements are made or there are special circumstances).

**Did you know** the Texas VHF FM Society oversees over 1600 coordinated repeaters in Texas?

**Did you know** BVARC has been on many repeaters over the years? Here is just a sample:

146.76	147.00	145.45	145.47	146.88	146.940	442.50
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And through the club 46-year history with multiple NETs, the club has never owned a repeater!

**Did you know** on two of the repeaters, there were autpatches (no cellphones back then)?

**Did you know** that to change frequencies on the repeaters (and members mobile radios) they sometimes had to order crystals for the new frequencies? The order time would sometimes be eight weeks long! And once you got the crystals back and installed in your radio, you had to have a frequency counter to make sure you were right on frequency.

And finally, **did you know** the first repeater in Houston was the 146.880? It had the call sign of WR5AAA and was on top of what used to be called the Gulf Building in downtown Houston. – 73, N5VCX

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## BVARC Rag Chew Net

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

07/26/23, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, K5LJ, KG5ICR, AB5YF (Harrisonburg, LA), W5TKZ, W5RDY, K5TPC (Bellaire), KI5HOC, WW5PA, N5VCM, KJ5AXC, W5RH, W5VOM, K5RBC (Lake Jackson), K5NZ (Bedias). (16 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 167, SN = 147, A = 22, K = 2 / Band Rpt: GOOD

08/02/23, K5LKJ (NCS), K5LJ, KI5HOC, W5ALW, N5VCM, W5RDY, KG5ICR, K5TPC, AA5OA (Percy, AR). (9 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 175, SN = 135, A = 9, K = 4 / Band Rpt: FAIR

08/09/23, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, W5RH/5 (Sabinetown), W5TKZ, W5LIC (Bellaire), KG5ICR, N5VCM, KI5HOC, KK5CK, W5ALW, NU5K, K5TPC (Bellaire), AA5OA (Percy, AR), K5LJ, W5BOZ (Fulshear). (15 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 159, SN = 103, A = 8, K = 1 / Band Rpt: FAIR

08/16/23, K5LKJ (NCS), K5JPP, W1BG (Katy), K5LJ, KG5ICR, W5TKZ, K5TPC (Bellaire), N5VCM, W5ALW, W5VOM, W5RH, W5RDY, WW5PA (T), W5LPK (River Ridge, LA), AA5OA (Percy, AR). (15)(Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 158, SN = 82, A = 4, 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



# Getting Over My Contest Allergy

By K5JPP, Richard (JP) Pritchard

There's an old saying that ham radio operators go to the instruction manual only as a last resort. Despite the complexity of most ham gear, most amateur radio operators would rather figure it out themselves, even if it means damaging something in the process. That describes me to a Tee.

It also explains why Ham radio contesting is not my thing. Most contests are about as fun to me as trying to be the first in the neighborhood to rake my lawn. Raking is probably only important to the home owners association, and in my opinion, it's better for the yard to let the leaves remain where they fall.

Oh, I'm competitive all right. In school I busted my chubby backside to get the highest score on a test, and I worked hard to get ahead in my career by doing my best every day. Number One. That was always my goal. I think winning on those two fronts is worth the effort in concrete ways. But I have a hard time focusing my competitive nature on radio contesting, and gaming in general.

I play a little penny ante poker with relatives now and then, but I do that to promote affable relationships. I also enjoy the game Sequence with my grandsons. Both of those activities help to cement our connections and the rules of both are clear and simple. In both games, you're spared having to produce a document proving your score. In poker, the winner is usually obvious as the player who ends up with the tallest stack of chips.

That's why I don't participate in most ham radio contests. They're usually not simple thanks to the complexity of logging and scoring rules that test my patience. And what's the pay off? Winning an award for the "**most QSOs completed over a multi-hour stretch**"? I know there are a lot of hams who would love to achieve that goal. But it's just not my thing.

On the other hand, I was recently motivated to participate in the North American QSO SSB Party after I was repeatedly assured that the rules were simple. To be sure, I wasn't entirely convinced of that until I went to the NAQP website and read the requirements for myself.

My initial impression was not favorable. There are enough rules to fill two packed pages! But I was hooked when I discovered that the on-air exchange involved only two bits of information – your first name and your state, province or country. There are a few other rules but they're as simple as the exchange, so I decided to give it a try, and I'm glad I did.

I harbored no ambition to win for one important reason. I know I can't sit in one location for hours on end – just can't do it. But I did log my Q's in N1MM+ and submitted my meager entry in the spirit of full participation.

Here was my surprise. I enjoyed the heck out of it. Unlike previous contests I've dabbled in, the simplicity of the NAQP-SSB seemed to promote a light-heartedness. I guess that's a function of "fewer details, fewer worries." Participants were clearly enjoying themselves and that was evident in the tone of many QSOs. I wouldn't use the adjective "many" to describe the QSOs in my log. But I still had fun and that's a new concept for me when it comes to radio contests.

That said, I am now looking forward to the Texas QSO Party September 16 and 17. I'm thinking of taking my ham shack on the road, working mobile in a county where there aren't a lot of hams. There aren't even a lot of people in Chambers County, (more alligators than people?), and amateur operators are few and far between. Sounds like a pile up on my end, and maybe a very good time.

## August VE - FCC TESTING SESSIONS RESULTS

For the August 5<sup>th</sup> test session at Bayland Park - we had 11 candidates and conducted 15 tests.

### New Licensees:

Souza, F (Technician)  
McDowell (Technician)  
Whitson, A (Technician)

### Upgrades:

KJ5CCG (General)  
KI5RLZ (General)  
K9GUL (General)  
W5LIC (Extra)

VEs in attendance – K5LJ, WM5N, WX5KR, KG5ICR, and NK5Q – **THANKS!**  
Congratulations to all!

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The next BVARC test session will be **Saturday September 9<sup>th</sup>**. **Pre-registration is required.**

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 its 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)).



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NU5K - Eddie  
KB5YTA - Dwayne  
KB5OBB - Eddie Jr  
KF5RKJ - BLake  
WSLIC - Anthony



## 2023 Club 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)  
Jeff Greer W5JEF greerjw@hotmail.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

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## Regularly Scheduled Club Happenings

### General Meeting

Both in-person and Zoom  
Second Thursday each month, 7:30 PM  
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 AM  
Both in-person and Zoom. **Check the website** as this might change. *(September meeting is via Zoom, Sunday, September 10 at 5 PM)*

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 as the BOD Meeting, at 10:30 AM. Please check the BVARC website for any last-minute changes or updates.

*The next BVARC VE Test Session will be at Bayland Park, Saturday, September 9th at 10:30 AM.*

Rag Chew Net 3910 KHz ± 3KHz Wednesdays at 7 PM

Public Service Net Monday night on 146.94- (167.9) at 8 PM

Stir Crazy Net Monday-Friday on 146.94- (167.9) at 12 PM

Check [www.bvarc.org](http://www.bvarc.org) for current info.

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

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

BVARC POTA on Sunday September 24th 10 AM-5PM at Brazos Bend State Park (K-2992).

## Advertising in the BVARC BEACON

Business card sized ads are \$10 per month or six months for \$50. Half (½) page ads are \$25 per month, \$125 for six months, or \$250 per year. Full page ads are \$50 per month, \$250 for six months, or \$500 for a year.



## BVARC EATING SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

IHOP on SW Freeway inbound service road, near Kirkwood at 7 AM.

### WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH

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



## Hamfests Near Houston

### 09/25/2023 - 09/29/2023

#### RV Radio Network Fall Rally

**Location:** Fredericksburg, TX

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** RV Radio Network

**Website:** <http://www.rvradionetwork.com>

### 10/06/2023 - 10/07/2023

#### Belton HamExpo

**Location:** Temple, TX

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** RV Radio Network

**Website:** <https://tarc.org/hamexpo/>

### 03/01/2024 - 03/02/2024

#### Greater Houston HamFest

**Location:** Rosenberg, TX

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

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



## Events Near Houston

**Katy Area Safety Fest, Saturday September 16, 10 AM – 3 PM, Katy Mills Mall**

**Wings Over Houston, October 14 - 15, Ellington Airport**



Ham Exam answer: B, above 222 MHz. FCC §97.305(b) states “no SS modulation emission may be transmitted on any frequency where SS is not specifically authorized.” The lowest frequencies listed for SS use in FCC §97.305 *Authorized emission types* are 222-225 MHz.

# 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 per year, with student dues \$10 per year, additional family members \$5 per member per year.

Club meetings are both in-person and via Zoom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. If you have signed up for the email reflector, you will receive notice and the attendance password, etc. It will also be on the website a few days beforehand.

BVARC amateur radio testing 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** please check the BVARC website for any changes.

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

A "Stir Crazy Net" is also held weekdays at 12 Noon on the 146.94 (minus offset, PL 167.9 tone) repeater.

A rag chew net is held each Wednesday at 7 PM on 3910 KHz +/- 3 KHz.

The QuestionAIR Net is held every Tuesday at 7:00 PM on the 146.94 (minus offset, PL 167.9 tone) repeater.

To obtain information about joining BVARC or its activities, see the BVARC website: [www.bvarc.org](http://www.bvarc.org)

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

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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

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Board of Directors Meeting – 5 PM Sunday, September 10, 2023, via Zoom

General Membership Meeting – 7:30 PM Thursday, September 14, 2023

BVARC POTA – 10 AM-5 PM Sunday, September 24, 2023, Brazos Bend State Park



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