



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2005

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 2

## NEW MEMBER'S AND VISITOR'S NIGHT

The regularly scheduled meeting for BVARC takes place on the second Thursday of the month, February 10, at the Sugar Land Community Center, 226 Matlage Way, Sugar Land, TX at 7:30 PM. See the map on the "Mix-N-Match" flyer elsewhere herein.

This month will feature programs and activities of special interest to anyone considering or just entering the hobby of amateur radio. Live amateur radio stations will be set up so contacts will be made throughout the U.S. and to foreign countries. Information of the hobby and the diverse aspects and many interests will be available.

### NOTICE TO MEMBERS

This is THE meeting to bring that friend, new ham and/or prospective ham.

***WELCOME!***

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### BVARC'S MIX-N-MATCH SWAPMEET

March 5.

Mark your calendars!

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**TECHNICAL EDITOR NEEDED:** We need more technical material for this newsletter.

## ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET - VERY WELL ATTENDED

The annual BVARC banquet and awards ceremony was held on Friday, Jan. 14 at the Saltgrass Steakhouse on the SW Freeway. It was well attended and many awards were presented. The two main awards were the "Order of the Key" to Ross Lawler, W5HFF and the "Loop & Zepp" award, to Rick Hiller, W5RH. Several photos are shown here but please go to the BVARC website to view many more photos.



Ross Lawler receives the  
Order of the Key Award

## MORE PHOTOS FROM THE ANNUAL BANQUET



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### President's Corner

With the new year firmly started, it is time to start several things to help the club become more secure. The future are of concern are membership levels, club activities and a meeting place for the general meeting. As most of you have heard, we will have a place to meet for 2006 and beyond at the Community Center due to the past work that Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM and Claude Sessions, K5HFY did with Raul Trevino, the director of Emergency Management for the City of Sugar Land. Even with the community center confirmed, I feel that we, as a club, need to make sure that we always have a meeting place as well as a back for the general meeting. I am going to continue to look for a place for the general meeting that can serve as a back-up if the Community Center is not available. This leaves us with membership levels and club activities to work on for 2005.

On club activities the first one that is coming up will be New Ham/New Member night at the next general meeting. I hope that everyone that attends the February meeting will try and bring someone with them that is either interested in getting into amateur radio or that is already licensed. I want the club to make sure that anyone new coming to the club meetings are welcomed and appreciated (some of you may have read a few e-mails about BVARC not being very friendly to a possible new member. There is an article about this else where in the newsletter). The meeting will have information about repeater operations, amateur activities in the Houston area and basic technical information. For the old timers out there, they should attend and maybe they may learn something that they did not know! I hope everyone will be there because the best source of information for the hobby are the club members.

Other club activities coming up are the Mix-n-Match swap meet on March 5<sup>th</sup>, Field Day on the last weekend of June, the Ice Cream Social in August, the elections and Chili supper in November and home brew (no not home-made beer) night in December. Hopefully around September or October we will bring back BVARC's weekend camping trip. Keep up with the newsletter on any details.

The club is fairly busy throughout the year but to keep everyone's interest high, more activities need to be planned. I would like all the members to send me an e-mail and let me know what you are interested in. If we get a large enough response, hopefully the club will be able to do it.

Last but not least is the club's membership level. We are still hovering around 100 members which is good since we are no longer dropping in numbers. The club needs to be around 200 members which will allow us to have the income for Field Day, the Awards banquet and other club functions. If anyone would like to help on this year's membership drive, please contact the board of directors and let them know.

These are the challenges for 2005. Lets really work hard so that BVARC can stay viable for 2005 and years to come.

73, N5VCX

## CLUB EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/-3KHz	3 BOD Meeting 7:30 PM	4	5 Breakfast 7:30 AM
6 Big Chill Bike Ride	7 Net 8:00 pm 146.880	8 VE Session 6:30 pm	9 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/-3KHz	10 Club Meeting 7:30 pm	11	12 Breakfast 7:30 AM
13	14 Net 8:00 pm 146.880	15	16 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/-3KHz	17	18 TIO PEPE's 7:30 pm	19 Breakfast 7:30 AM
20 Wild Wild Wild West End Bike Ride	21 Net 8:00 pm 146.880	22	23 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/-3KHz	24	25	26 Breakfast 7:30 AM
27	28 Net 8:00 pm 146.880					

**SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFASTS:**

NEW YORK COFFEE SHOP, 7:30a.m., 9720 Hillcroft      VIKING DEN, 7:30a.m., 2939 S. Main (US90A), Stafford.

**THIRD FRIDAY DINNERS:**

February 18, 7:30p.m., TIO PEPE'S SPANISH RESTAURANT, 5213 Cedar in Bellaire

March 18, 7:30p.m., THE HICKORY BARN BARBECUE, 11534 Wilcrest in Houston.

### Bill's Antenna Take-Down Party



Ross L, Rick H and Bill P taking down Bill's 5-band quad and 36' tower. John C is behind the shutter.

In the spirit of hams helping hams through BVARC, recently Bill Pearson, W5RJA, asked for assistance in removing his quad and tower as he and his wife are moving out of town. Ross (W5HFF), Rick (W5RH) and John (K5IZO) answered his request and on Sat., Jan. 22, went to his home and assisted Bill in removing the antenna and tower. This is another example of the BVARC club helping one of its own.

Ross, W5HFF

## IS BVARC FRIENDLY?

Recently there was a flurry of e-mails discussing whether or not BVARC is friendly. It is unreasonable to print every letter that everyone sent or uploaded to the net, so I will try to summarize the pros and cons. Then, let's see if we can emphasize the positives from this so all benefit. The camaraderie of hams, especially BVARC members, is well known but can always be improved.

A long time ham, but not a BVARC member, attended a meeting and apparently was not enchanted by the reception that he received. One member responded: "It is always hard on someone who visits just about anyplace where people have known each other for years. This even happens at churches, scout meetings and lodges." The reporting member referenced "cliques" and that "nobody approached him." Clearly "cliques" do not exist however human nature does tend to favor people gravitating towards those that they are most familiar with. Another cited "Well I'm sorry that happened but I find BVARC members to be very friendly. I do see in every day life if you stand by your self and not engage with people you will be left out." BVARC, as well as any organization that is trying to grow, should continue to foster a feeling of acceptance and openness to any visitor.

BVARC members should, and usually do, make efforts to approach visitors and make them feel more welcome. Sometimes however . . . Possibly, as one member said, "I'm a big believer in name badges worn as a courtesy to newcomers in any group." The Editor was a visitor two years ago when he received his license and immediately fell "into the groove." This has to be a "give and take" and we must all be aware of it.

Relating to this, see the article "Bill's Antenna Take-Down Party" in this issue.

*Wel come to BVARC!*

Note: Rick Hiller, W5RH, submitted an excellent 3 page article which would really be of interest to all hams, and in particular to those who are new to the hobby. Space limitations however mandate that this be printed in next month's issue.

02103

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## Upcoming Hamfests

Hamfest info for the next few months. More information at: <http://www.arrrl.org/hamfests.html#listing>

### KCOMM, INC.

10815 Gulfdale San Antonio, Texas 78216

<http://home.satx.rr.com/kcomm/>

Parking Lot Swapfest ! (210) 344-3311

It's in our parking lot, the last Saturday each month.

Gulfdale is close to the San Antonio International Airport.

Hey!!! Free coffee & doughnuts.

C'mon out and set a spell.

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### Humble TEAC ARC Swap-meet

Third Saturday in March, June, September, December in Humble. Sponsored by TEAC - Hugh [W5FM@arrl.net](mailto:W5FM@arrl.net) 145.43(minus offset)

Talk-in on 146.940 or 444.100 both have 179.9 tone

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### Georgetown Sunday Swap-meet

Sunday, Feb 6th 2005 12noon-3PM

WILLIAMSON COUNTY ARC, FREE ADMISSION

For more details, go to the website: [www.wcarrc.com](http://www.wcarrc.com)

Community Center, San Gabriel Park, Georgetown,

Talk-in on 146.64 (-) 162.2Hz PL WCARC N5TT  
repeater Backup is 145.13(-)

### Smithville Swapfest at Riverbend Park in Smithville, TX

February 19, 2005 8 am to ??

Talk-in on 43.750 and 145.350 114.8 tone

Contact Lynn, K5LYN at 512-360-4809 or go to

[www.bastrophams.org](http://www.bastrophams.org)

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### ORANGE, TEXAS SWAPMEET

The Orange ARC and Jefferson County ARC are sponsoring the Orange Hamfest in Orange Texas 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. 26 February 2005. It will be held at the VFW Hall in Orange. Adm: Free.

Talk-in frequency 147.180 no tone.

Info: Joan Lexa, WA5LFT 409/886-1892,

[wa5lfs@pnx.com](mailto:wa5lfs@pnx.com), Delores Heintschel, KC5NEO;

409/962-1435; [kc5neo@gt.rr.com](mailto:kc5neo@gt.rr.com)

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### Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Mix-n-Match Swap Meet March 5, 2005

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Indoor tables and outdoor

Needing volunteers to help with the swap meet!

More info in the newsletter or check

<http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc/>

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## Monday Night NET Updates

Don't forget the Monday Night Public Service Net starts at **8 pm**. 146.88 Mhz, PL 103.5 (backup – 145.45, PL –none). The order of check-ins start with mobile units first then fixed stations. If you have something for the net, make sure you let Net Control know about it when you check in. We are looking for Net Control Operators. Contact any officer of BVARC if you are interested. Here are recent check-ins with control-ops:

11/15 - 13 - Joe, k5jwm	11/22 - 19 - Cam, k5cam	11/29 - 25 - Sid, n5zkd	12/6 - 25 - Cam, k5cam
12/13 - 21 - Mike, n5vcx	12/20 - 23 - Joe, k5jwm	12/27 - 22? - Doug, kc5vyz	1/3 - 24 - Doug, kc5vyz
1/10 - 19 - Mike, n5vcx	1/17 - 19 - Joe, k5jwm	1/24 - 23 - Cam, k5cam	

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### THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00PM

By Joe Morgan, K5JWM, Net Coordinator

Just WHAT IS the Rag Chew Net? Well it's a chance for you to get on the low bands and hang out with other B-Varc members, as well as hams from around the south central US! WHAT?? Don't have voice privileges? Got a short-wave receiver? Dial in and listen, then check in using the telephone number announced at the beginning of each net.

12/01/04 - K5JWM,N5CPA,K5CEK,W5HFF,W5UHZ,AB5BA,K5VRJ,WA5VRB.check-ins(08)

12/08/04 - K5JWM,K5HFY,N5CPA,W5UHZ,K5VRJ,WA5VRB,WB5VYR,AB5BA,K5LJ.check-ins(09)

12/15/04 - N5CPA,K5CEK K5HFY,K5LJ,N5VXU,W5UHZ,WA5VRB.check-ins(07)

12/22/04 - K5JWM,N5CPA,K5CEK,W5HFF,K5HFY,W7JAQ,K5LJ,WA5VRB,K5IHV,KA5MEI.check-ins(10)

12/29/04 - K5JWM,K5CEK,N5CPA,K5LJ,W5UHZ,WA5VRB,AB5BA,K5VRJ.check-ins(08)



Have you seen the article “Casual DX – In the land of the ice bears” in the February issue of World Radio? Taking that as a cue, this is a shot from Cameron Mitchell’s (K5CAM) trip to Antarctica of his cruise ship. Maybe next trip, he’ll have an HF rig and we’ll set up some skeds.

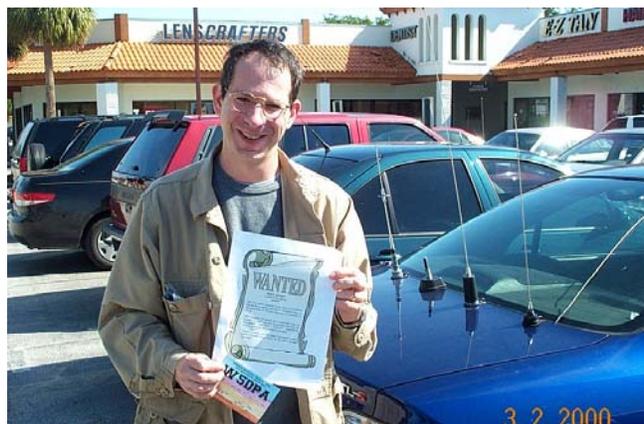
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## WANTED - FUGITIVES

In recent months two club members, Paul Gray Jr., N0JAA and Paul Rubin, N8NOV fled from Texas to the sunshine state, Florida in an apparent attempt to escape the Houston traffic problems and live and bask in the sun and surf. Upon realizing this had occurred the club’s acting Sergeant-at-Arms Mack Arp, W5EET issued **WANTED** posters for their immediate return to the great state of Texas and face Houston traffic like the rest of us.

Recently club president Mike Hardwick, N5VCX delivered the wanted posters to the two “escapees” in Florida in an attempt to bring them back to justice. At this time they are fighting extradition (the sun and surf has affected their common sense – it made it better) so unfortunately Mike left empty handed.

Over the next few months more attempts will be made to bring (drag) them back to the Lone Star State but Mike feels that it is a losing battle. Mike did say that they are both feeling withdrawals from real Mexican food and the warm feeling from everyone in Texas.



Fugitives Paul Rubin, N8NOV and Paul Gray, N0JAA in Florida.



# 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

## Mix 'n' Match

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. March 5, 2005  
Sugar Land Community Center  
226 Matlage Way, Sugar Land

Talk-in on 146.880 (minus offset, 103.5 tone)

Set-up at 8:00 a.m. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. Community Center closes at 1:00 p.m.

\$1.00 Admission    VE Sessions    Refreshments Available

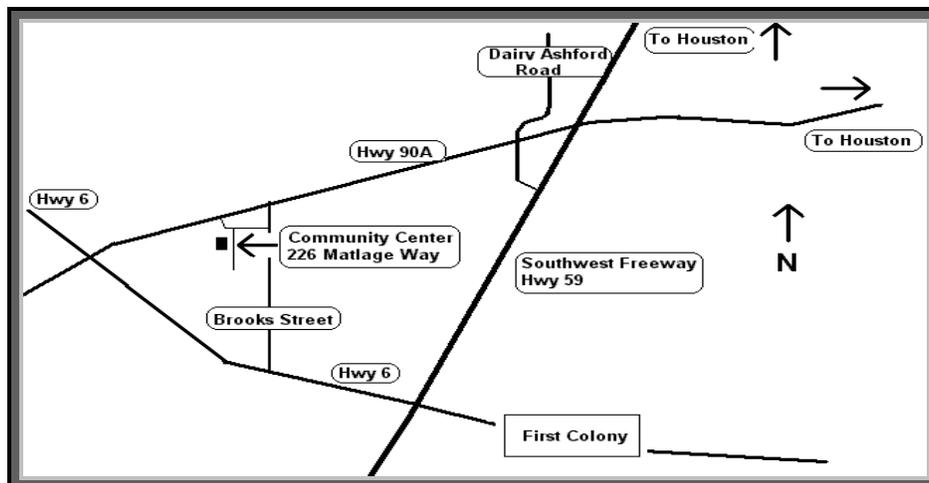
Emergency Communications Vehicle Display

Grand Prize Raffle    Live Entertainment    Boat Anchor Raffle

Tables:    Club members - 2 tables free, \$5.00 each after the first 2  
Non members - \$5.00 each or 2 tables free with membership!  
Commercial tables - \$10.00 each

Tailgate:    Club members - 1 space free, \$5.00 each after the first 1  
Non members - \$5.00 each or 1 space free with membership!  
Commercial - \$10.00 each

It's time to do that early spring-cleaning and bring out the best of the worst or the worst of the best of your equipment, accessories or just plain junk and get rid of it. Come on out and see what equipment you can mix or match with yours. Contact Mike, N5VCX at 713-771-4625, [n5vcx@arrl.net](mailto:n5vcx@arrl.net) or Ross, W5HFF at 281-342-3340, [w5hff@juno.com](mailto:w5hff@juno.com) for your tables or information. Isn't it time to upgrade? Amateur radio license testing will begin at 9:30 a.m.



# Public Service Events

## **Freescale (formerly Motorola) Marathon Austin, Texas February 13, 2004**

<http://www.freescaleaustinmarathon.com/home.asp><http://www.motorolamarathon.com/>

Contact Martin KM5CT [Martin.Wennerstrom@freescale.com](mailto:Martin.Wennerstrom@freescale.com) to volunteer. Fifty operators are needed for the event.

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## **BP MS150 Training Rides**

If you would like to help on the bike rides leading up to the MS150, let me know. As you can see there are several rides needing operators over the next few months and all of them are needing amateur radio communications. Besides helping the riders get prepared for the MS150, the ride also helps the amateur radio operators prepare for it as well.

2/06/05	The Big Chill Bike Ride	<a href="http://www.houstonsudbury.org/">http://www.houstonsudbury.org/</a>	Katy area	15 operators needed
2/20/05	The Wild, Wild, Wild West End Ride	<a href="http://www.teamwestend.org/">http://www.teamwestend.org/</a>	Richmond	15 operators needed
3/12/05	The Continental Airlines Cycling Classic	<a href="http://www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1170151">http://www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1170151</a>	Montgomery	10 operators needed
3/13/05	Bluebonnet Express	<a href="http://www.northwestcyclingclub.com/">http://www.northwestcyclingclub.com/</a>	Hempstead	20 operators needed
3/20/05	Tour de Cypress	<a href="http://www.teamcure.org/tourdecypress.htm">http://www.teamcure.org/tourdecypress.htm</a>	West Houston	17 operators needed

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## **BP-MS150 April 16 & 17, 2005**

[www.ms150.org](http://www.ms150.org)

Mkke Hardwick, N5VCX

Amateur radio operators are the primary communications for the MS150 and provide communications on the entire ride from Houston to Austin. Operators are assigned with several different groups or they are stationed at different locations along the route. There are many positions for operators such as Break points, Medical vehicles, MS150 Staff, SAG vehicles, Supply Trucks, NET Control and Command Post operators and Motorcycle Hams.

Volunteers need a 2 Meter/VHF radio (dual band preferred) that has at least 25 watts output and a gain antenna. Operators need to be ready to be transferred between vehicles due to changes during the event. Food and sleeping areas (except bed linens) provided by the MS150 organization. Secure parking provided for vehicle.

Volunteer hours start at 4:30 am, April 17 & end around 7 pm, April 18. Two information meetings are held the week before the ride April 12th & April 14th. More information at [www.houstonhams.org](http://www.houstonhams.org) or you can sign up at the MS150 Volunteer Page at <http://ms150.org/ms150/volunteer/signup.cfm> or you can contact me at 713-826-691.

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## **Shiner Bash Bike Ride May 14, 2005**

Triple route bike ride starting from Houston, Austin and San Antonio ending in Shiner  
25 operators needed to cover all three courses.

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## **B-VARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005 by: John Moore, KK5NU**

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, January 11, 2005 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus in Stafford. Members of the VE team are:

Dennis Dietrich, W5DDD   Ron Grimes, WA5SCE   Larry Jacobson, K5LJ   George Ontko, KM5VP

Two examination elements were administered during the evening to a single applicant. There was one upgrade to General attained. A total of two elements were passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%. Congratulations to the following who attained a license and/or passed an exam:

Billy G. Ashenhart   - KD5RDS - General

Many thanks to all the Team Members and Assistants who volunteer their valuable time and effort each month. All of us at B-VARC again thank everyone at HCC Scarcella Technology Center for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

..... 73 .....

## 2005 Club Officers:

### President:

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX  
n5vcx@worldnet.att.net

### Vice President:

Allen Brier, N5XZ  
n5xz@arrl.net

### Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:

Ross Lawler, W5HFF  
w5hff@yahoo.com

### Recording Secretary:

Joe Morgan, K5JWM  
k5jwm@att.net

### One Year Board Member

Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ,  
polinski@swbell.net

### Two Year Board Member:

Sid Sherwood, N5ZKD  
n5zkd@arrl.net

### Past President:

Kevin Foto, KD5O  
foto@texas.net

## Club Happenings:

### General Meeting

Second Thursday each month,  
Sugar Land Community Center,  
226 Matlage Way

### Board of Directors Meeting

First Thursday of each month,  
Sugar Land Community Center,  
226 Matlage Way

### Volunteer Examiner Program

BVARC administers Amateur  
License Exams on the 2nd Tuesday  
of each month at the HCC Scarcella  
Technology Campus,

10141 Cash Rd. in Stafford.  
Contact John Moore, KK5NU

### Eating Schedule

Third Friday Dinner at 7:30 p.m.  
Location announced in the calendar.

### Saturday morning breakfasts –

7:30 a.m. New York Coffee Shop  
9720 Hillcroft, Houston  
7:30 a.m. Viking Den  
2939 S. Main, Stafford

### Rag Chew Net

3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays  
at 7:00 p.m.

### Public Service Net

Monday night on 146.88 (103.5 PL)  
at 8:00 PM

# Minutes of Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting

January 06, 2005

**Attendees:** President Mike Hardwick-N5VCX  
Treasurer/Corresponding Secretary Mack Arp-W5EET  
Recording Secretary Joe Morgan-K5JWM  
One-year at large Director Ross Lawler-W5HFF  
Two-year at large Director Sid Sherwood, N5ZKD  
Two-year at large Director Robert Polanski-KD5YVQ  
Newsletter Editor John Chauvin-K5IZO  
Randy Pollard-AK5G

Meeting called to order at 7:45

Minutes for Nov & Dec were presented for approval.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Ross Lawler presented for approval. There are 4 new members and 2 membership renewals. Total number of members is 101.

**Emergency business:** The meeting space for general meeting as been taking care of it will still be at the same place.

Meeting place for the board meeting will have to change.

Space for 2006 mix-n-match

**New business:** We need a new banner for the club. The club is trying to get a new club call - KK5W. Pump, WA5CYI, is in charge of resurrecting the annual club campout/picnic Randy AK5G is still working on the 503-c for the club Ross will be starting ham class again more info on this next month.

**Old business:** Mix 'n match in March: People need to spread the word with flyers to other clubs and swap meets. Some of the Charles White estate will be at the swapfest. Houston Amateur Radio and Mike Williams, commercial vendors, have committed to being at the meet. Banquet January 14, Friday at the Saltgrass on SW Freeway.

February is new ham month and some demonstrations need to be set up at the meeting.

**Meeting adjourned** at 9:03pm

Submitted by Recording Secretary Joe W Morgan-K5JWM

## **Houston Amateur Radio Supply**

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06/04



Monthly Publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.  
Serving Amateur Radio for Southwest Houston and Fort Bend County  
Club Call sign - KC5OIG, W5DPA  
BVARC Website: <http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc>  
Editor: John Chauvin, K5IZO, [k5izo@yahoo.com](mailto:k5izo@yahoo.com)  
Production Team: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, [k5cam@arrl.net](mailto:k5cam@arrl.net)  
Claude Sessions, K5HFY, [k5hfy@arrl.net](mailto:k5hfy@arrl.net)

**Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC)** was organized in 1978, primarily as an emergency communications group available to assist the communities of Missouri City and Stafford when required. Since that time, **BVARC** has grown and expanded its activities to become the most active amateur radio club in the Southwest Houston and Fort Bend County areas.

Today **BVARC** is truly a general interest amateur radio club along with an impressive record of public service. The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) has recognized the club's commitment of service with the coveted status of Special Services Club. We are proud of our members who represent the some of the finest in amateur radio. Membership is not limited to licensed operators, but is open to anyone with an interest in amateur radio. Club meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Sugar Land Community Center, 226 Matlege Way. Talk-in assistance for the club meeting is available on the 146.880 repeater (minus offset, 103.5 tone). General membership dues are \$20.00 per year, with student dues \$10.00 per year, addition family members \$2.00 per member per year and life membership \$160.00.

**BVARC** also administers amateur radio license exams on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Houston Community College's Scarcella campus in Stafford. A Public Service Net is held each Monday at 8:00 p.m. on the 146.880 (minus offset with a 103.5 tone) repeater and a rag chew net is held each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. on 3910 KHz +/- 3 KHz.

To obtain information about joining **BVARC** or its activities contact the club's "Elmer", Ross Lawler, W5HFF at 281-342-3340 or [w5hff@yahoo.com](mailto:w5hff@yahoo.com) or the BVARC website at [www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc](http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc).

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**VOLUME 29, ISSUE 2**

**February 2005**

**BRAZOS VALLEY  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
P.O. BOX 1630  
MISSOURI CITY TX 77459-1630  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**FIRST CLASS POSTAGE**

**Monday Night Public Service Net at 8:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Night Rag Chew New at 7:00 P.M.  
New Member's & Visitor's Night, February 10, 7:00 PM**

*If your mailing label is  
highlighted in color its time  
to renew your membership!*