



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

JULY 2010

VOLUME 34 ISSUE 7

## July 8<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting

**Where were you on Museum Ships & Field Day weekends?**

At the June meeting, please join us for slide shows and discussions about our back-to-back BVARC operating events -- Bill WS5H and John K5IZO will discuss operations from the USS CAVALLA (a WWII Submarine) and from the USS STEWART (a WWII destroyer escort - one of only 3 in the world) during "Museum Ships" weekend, and Jim N5DTT and Kirk KK2 will cover "BVARC Field Day 2010" from the antennas and radios to the food and camaraderie.

The meeting takes place at the Sugar Land Community Center and begins at 7:30 PM.



## June General Membership Report

The program for the June General Membership meeting primarily consisted of a two part presentation and the annual Trivia Game.

A very brief overview of what transpired at the Museum Ships Weekend was given. This event had just taken place 5 days earlier, so a detailed presentation is to be made in July.

Also, a preview of the Field Day arrangements was given. See the related article in this issue and attend the July meeting for a complete report.

Rick Hiller, W5RH, had his annual trivia game.

Before the meeting, Bill had a debriefing on the Museum Ships Weekend. See photo below.



## President's Corner

Business and monkey business.

Unfortunately, I am traveling now and quite busy on the road with my business. So, no time for monkey business for this month. I had a decent start on a column, but I will have to delay it until August.

I hope that all of you that participated in Museum Ships or ARRL Field Day had a great time. I did on both, from at home and on-site. Please come out to the July meeting to hear all about our BVARC exploits for the past month. See Kirks notice later in this newsletter about what is coming up in the next few months. Exciting times, indeed.

Sorry for the brevity in the Presidents Corner for July. I'll be back to full length in August.

Please attend the Texas City Hamfest on July 10<sup>th</sup>. It is always a fun time. Enjoy your hobby. See you on the radio.

73.....Rick – W5RH



## Monday Night NET Updates

Don't forget the Monday Night Public Service Net starts at **8 pm** on 146.94 (167.9). 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:

3/15 - 24 - John, k5lkj  
3/22 - 37 - Pete, kd5qpx  
3/29 - 35 - Sid, n5zkd  
4/5 - 28 - Cam, k5cam  
4/12 - 28 - Bill & Norma

4/19 - 27 - Dwayne, kb5yta  
4/26 - 29 - Pete, kd5qpx  
5/3 - 31 - Cam, k5cam  
5/10 - 41 - Bill & Norma  
5/17 - 25 - Dwayne, kb5yta

5/24 - 32 - Pete, kd5qpx  
5/31 - 17 - Syd, n5zkd  
6/7 - 34 - Cam, k5cam  
6/14 - 42 - Bill & Norma  
6/21 - 20 - Dwayne, kb5yta



## Public Service Events

### **2010 Katy Flatland Century Bike Ride**

7 :00 am Sunday, July 18, 2010

15 operators needed for the event. Operators will meet 4:45 am at the Denny's on Fry Road just north of Interstate 10

Talk-in and event frequency will be 145.190 MHz, minus offset, 123.0 tone.

### **Tour de Pink 2010**

7 :00 am Sunday, September 19,

18 operators needed for the event. Operators will meet 4:30 am at the Denny's on FM 1960 just north of Hwy 290

Talk-in and event frequency will be announced at a later date.

### **Repeater update!**

Most of you may know that the Katy Saltgrass 444.075 repeater is off the air due to the tower falling. This repeater was used very heavily for the public service events that were held on the west and northwest side of Houston. At this time some of the events will be moved to the 145.19 repeater (minus offset, 123.0 tone). There are several other repeaters in the area that will be used for the events so keep checking the BVARC newsletter.

Thanks,  
Mike



### Meeting Notebook – Upcoming BVARC Meetings

July – Slide Shows and Discussions on “Museum Ships” – Bill WS5H, John K5IZO and “Field Day” – Jim N5DTT, Kirk KK2Z

August – Ice Cream Social with the BVARC Past Presidents

September – “HSMM-MESH™ -- High Speed Multimedia Mesh...What is it??” -- Kirk KK2Z, Andy W5ACM

October – The BVARC Elmers presents “Using Test Equipment”

November – Chili Dinner, BVARC Elections, and “Bring your favorite piece of Ham gear”

December – Homebrew Night



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### My Museum Ship Weekend

I put in about an hour Friday night after the power was restored at my house. Seems an inquisitive squirrel was climbing around on the pole pig in the back yard and suffered the consequences of Ohm's law. Fried the squirrel and tripped the circuit breaker. After CP restored power, the ceiling fan in the master bedroom burned up (the motor control electronics). And one of the yard lights failed (electronic ballast). All on account of a stupid squirrel. So on Saturday I spent time removing and disassembling the fan and taking down the yard light. The smell of burnt electronics in the bedroom was pretty strong - took a lot of deodorizer to clear the air. Could only manage a couple hours for the MSW. After a frustrating day decided to watch a movie in the evening. On Sunday I repaired the ballast in the yard light and put it back up (it works OK). And took the wife out for lunch. So only a couple hours on Sunday for the MSW. The Fan manufacturer has volunteered to replace the motor control electronics gratis. So all's well that ends well. Stupid squirrel.

Larry K5LJ





## BVARC Field Day 2010

### Initial comments

The 2010 BVARC Field Day was everything we expected -- lots of antenna, radio, computer and network work, plenty of QSOs, great food, WAY too much heat, but always loads of fun! About 75 people were around to enjoy the activities ranging from 7:00am setup on Saturday all the way to the end of cleanup at 3:00pm Sunday. BVARC Operations started promptly at 1:00pm Saturday (I mean, 1800 z) with two CW stations, two SSB stations, a VHF (6m) station, and an ever active GOTA station. During Saturday afternoon, we added satellite operations and solar-charged 2m contacts. Three die hard operators covered the graveyard shift while others caught a few zzz's. For those of you used to 6 hours on Friday setting up and long hours on Sunday breaking it all back down, the sweaty efforts of many accomplished it all in record time.

Join us at the July 8th general meeting for the Field Day readout to learn who was there, what they did, and who made all the contacts. While you wait for the full article with all the details, don't forget to check out the event pictures that are being posted on the BVARC website:

<http://www.bvarc.org/photos.php?year=2010&event=fd>

Kirk

Here's just a couple:



Field Day – Not the same without Randy's chow



Up baby, up!



## SAMUEL F. B. MORSE TO GOVERNOR SAM HOUSTON LETTER

By RANDY POLLARD

My lifelong interest in Amateur Radio "Ham Radio" and in Texas history recently merged when I found a letter written by Samuel F. B. Morse to Governor Sam Houston in 1860.

In the letter Morse says "In the year 1838 I made an offer of gift of my invention of the Electro magnetic Telegraph to Texas, Texas being then an independent Republic". Morse goes on in the letter to say that Texas "...has ever directly or impliedly accepted the offer. I am induced, therefore, to believe that in its condition as a gift it was of no value to the State, but on the contrary has rather been an embarrassment". In the final paragraph of the letter Morse tells Houston that "I, therefore, now respectfully withdraw the offer...". Morse "sold" his invention to the United States in 1844.

Apparently the original letter offering the telegraph to Texas was sent to Memucan Hunt in March 1838. The original letter of offer by Morse was never acted upon and was sent to the "secret archives" of the State for safekeeping.

Memucan Hunt was born in 1807 in North Carolina and came to Texas in 1836. President Sam Houston appointed Hunt and William H. Wharton as agents to secure Texas the recognition of Texas. In March 1837 Hunt became the Texas minister in Washington. In 1841 he ran for vice president but lost the election to Edward Burlinson.

One can only speculate what would have happened if the Republic of Texas had accepted this offer.





## **BVARC Historical Vignettes – OSCAR Satellite Contacts at BVARC’s Field Day**

**Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian**

In recent years BVARC’s participation in the ARRL Field day has almost always included an OSCAR satellite station. While the satellite station does not make many contacts, it does earn a 100 point bonus for making at least one contact. And, in some years, a presentation or demonstration regarding OSCAR satellites was given to those attending the club’s Field Day event to earn an additional 100 points for having an educational activity.

From the records in my possession, it appears that the first satellite contact at a BVARC Field Day was made in 2003 by Scott Medbury, KD5FBA. Scott attended Field Day without any advance plan to work a satellite. When someone mentioned that there was a 100 point bonus for making a satellite contact, Scott went to his truck and checked his schedule of satellite passes. A satellite pass was just minutes away, and Scott grabbed his Icom W32A HT and a telescoping AL800 antenna and prepared to work a pass. A satellite was moving from south to north, and South Texas would soon be in the footprint. Scott managed a contact with Alex, XE1MEX, before the satellite footprint moved farther north covering the rest of the country and the satellite became saturated with hundreds of stations all calling “CQ Field Day” at the same time.

From 2004 through 2008 a more formal satellite operation was planned in advance. Principal operators were Scott Medbury, KD5FBA, Allen Mattis, N5AFV, and Will Thomas, N5ESA. Darrell Kirk, KC5JAR, Doug Holley, KE5SR, and others assisted by operating receiving stations so that those attending Field Day could hear the satellite. Satellite contacts were made in each of those years and the 100 point bonus looked like a sure thing. Due to medical issues and a scheduling conflict with the satellite operators, no satellite station was operated at BVARC’s 2009 Field Day.

Satellite operation at the 2010 BVARC Field Day was different than in any of the past years. A poor schedule of satellite passes to work with, and a visit by Mr. Murphy resulted in no satellite contacts being made. Two satellites, AO-27 and SO-50, had passes at the very same time. Both satellites have the same uplink and downlink frequencies. To further complicate things, AO-27 had an ascending pass (south to north) and SO-50 had a descending (north to south) pass. The result was that northern Mexico, the United States, and southern Canada were all in the combined footprint at the same time. The QRM was tremendous making it extremely difficult to make contacts.

If that wasn’t enough, Mr. Murphy chose to pay a visit. On the east passes of these satellites, a bad jumper cable resulted in not being able to hear the satellite for the first few minutes of the pass. Because the workable portion of a pass for these two satellites is 10 to 12 minutes, the loss of 3 or 4 minutes of operating time is significant. On the west passes, an antenna switch failed, and as a result, only one receiving antenna was usable. Four passes were worked and no contacts were made. The combination of a poor schedule of satellite passes and the visit by Mr. Murphy took its toll. However, lessons have been learned and there is always another year to try again.





## Minutes of June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club:

Rick Hiller called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:05 PM on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 at Fudrucker's, 11445 Fountain Lake Drive, Stafford, TX. Attending were: Rick Hiller, W5RH (Pres.); Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z (V.P.); Arnold Knoche, K5ADA (Treas./Cor. Sec.); Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.); David Barber, K5NDB, (At-Large Dir.); Charles Frost, K5LBU; (Past Pres.); Ross Lawler, W5HFF (At-Large Dir.); Eddie Runner, NU5K; Norma Stone, KE5NDN; Bill Stone, WS5H; Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; Jim Burrough Jr., N5DTT; Billy Jones Jr., N5EVD; Angel Abbott-Jones, KC5KRV.

- 1) Minutes for the May 2010 meeting were approved as previously distributed by email and appears in the June 2010 newsletter.
- 2) Treasurer's Report was presented to and approved by the Board.
- 3) Old Business:
  - a) Asset List: Sauermilch reported no progress.
  - b) 2010 Field Day: Kendrick reported fifty Field Day Pins and 10 GOTA Pins have been ordered. Need exists for volunteers for positions of Antenna and Radio Czar. Field Day T-shirts will be purchased only to the number of those ordering the product. Hiller proposed a graphic for shirts.
  - c) Museum Ship Weekend: Stone reported that activity went well with thirty-one who signed up to be at Sea Wolf Park.
- 4) New business:
  - a) Sherwood has resigned his position of Public Service Net Manager. Board took no action.
  - b) Frost requested that BVARC donate to the A25-2010 DXpedition (Botswana) of which he is a participant. Board decided to revisit the matter again in July and that Frost should make a direct appeal to club membership at the June General Membership Meeting.
  - c) Hiller proposed that BVARC donate to the Texas QSO Party by again sponsoring plaques for 2010. Proposed plaques are; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Texas Mobile Multi Op (\$14.50), 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Texas Mobile Single Op (\$14.50), 1<sup>st</sup> Place Texas Single Op Phone (\$37.50); 1<sup>st</sup> Place Texas Mobile Op Phone (\$37.50). Total expenditure would be \$104. Board approved expenditure.
  - d) Hiller proposed that BVARC support the BL-26 Texas Balloon Launch since there are many BVARC members who participate. He proposed donating \$300 to help with their expenses. Board approved expenditure.
- 5) Schedule:
  - a) June: Post Museum Ship report, Field Day, Trivial Pursuit
  - b) July: Museum Ship presentation, Field Day presentation
  - c) August: Ice Cream Social
- 6) Other:
  - a) Hiller: BSA Sam Houston Area Council is having a "Shack Jam" on October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at the Texas Speedway near College Station. This event is to promote Amateur Radio. No other details are available.
  - b) Hiller: The 2011 ARRL National Convention will be at the Plains TX Hamfest, 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in June 2011. Discussion followed regarding wisdom of BVARC having a booth at the hamfest.
- 7) Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX



## Field Day T-Shirts

Special T-Shirts re Field Day are being made. Eddie will put the t-shirts description/pictures and ordering info on the [www.bvarc.org](http://www.bvarc.org) web site. We will leave it up for 2 weeks and then the order will be placed in time for delivery at the August meeting.



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RESULTS OF THE June 8th  
B-VARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION  
by: John Moore, KK5NU

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, June 8, 2010 at HCC's Scarcella Science & Technology Building here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Dennis Dietrich, W5DDD  
Jeff Fussell, KD5VGE  
Larry Jacobson, K5LJ  
John Moore, KK5NU  
George Ontko, KM5VP

Four examination elements were administered during the evening to four applicants. Two new Technician class license and one upgrade to General class were attained; with the total number of elements passed being 3. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 75%.

Congratulations to the following who attained a license and/or passed an exam:

Michael J. Biasini	- {KF5HHZ}	- Technician
Adrian C. Hack	- KF5FLW	- General
Robert Schneiderhan	- {KF5HIA}	- Technician

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 Science & Technology Building for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

..... 73 .....



## THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

### June check-ins

3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00pm, John Whiteman, K5LKJ, Net Coordinator

05/26/10, N5CPA (NCS), K5CEK, W5RJA (Schulenburg), AF5T, AA5OA, K5IZO/5 (Jasper), WB5PNL (Beach City), WS5H, W5RH, K5NDB. (10 Check-Ins)

06/02/10, K5LKJ (NCS), W5JMC/5, WA5CYI/5, WB5PNL/5, WA5FMK/5, WB5VWB/5 (/5 Fredricksburg), WS5H, KE5APJ (T), K0NM, N5CPA, K5NDB, W55RJA (Schulenburg), K5CEK (R), K5LJ, KE5YLY (Beaumont), W5RH, KD5THJ, KC5JAR, KD5OBY. (19 Check-Ins)

06/09/10, K5LKJ (NCS), WA5CYI/5, WA5FMK/5, WA5JMC/5, WB5PNL/5, WB5VWB/5 (/5 Bracketville), K5NDB, N5CPA, W5TOM, WS5H, K5LJ, W55RJA (Schulenburg), W5RH, KC5JAR, K0NM, AF5T, WB4KTF, N5UCI, KE5OBY, K5IZO, K5LBU, W5TKZ. (22 Check-Ins)

06/16/10, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CEK, K5LBU, W5RH, K5LJ, N5CPA, AF5T, K5NDB, W55RJA (Schulenburg), WB5PNL (Beach City), WS5H, KF5EYX, WB5EXI. (13 Check-Ins)

06/23/10, K5LKJ (NCS), K5CAM/5 (Cat Springs), W55RJA (Schulenburg), AF5T, K5LJ, WA5CYI, K0NM, K5NDB, AA5OA, N5CPA, W5RH, W5TKZ, KF5EYX, K5YZS (Spring), WA5FMK. (15 Check-Ins)

(M) = mobile (P) = Portable (R) = Relay (T) = telephone check-in

Thanks.

Regards.

K5LKJ

John C. Whiteman



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2010 Club Officers:

President:

Rick Hiller

[rhiller@sdicgm.com](mailto:rhiller@sdicgm.com)

Vice President:

Kirk Kendrick, KK2Z

[kmkendrick@gmail.com](mailto:kmkendrick@gmail.com)

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:

Arnold Knoche, K5ADA

[jakadaok@aol.com](mailto:jakadaok@aol.com)

Recording Secretary:

Pete Sauermilch, KD5QPX

[kd5qpx@arrl.net](mailto:kd5qpx@arrl.net)

Board Member:

David Barber, K5NDB

[d\\_barber@att.net](mailto:d_barber@att.net)

Board Member:

Ross Lawler, W5HFF

[w5hff@yahoo.com](mailto:w5hff@yahoo.com)

At Large Board Member

(Past President):

Charles "Frosty" Frost, K5LBU

[frosty1@pdq.net](mailto:frosty1@pdq.net)

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Club Happenings:

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#### General Meeting

Second Thursday each month, 7:30 PM

Sugar Land Community Center,

226 Matlage Way

#### Board of Directors Meeting

First Thursday of each month, 7:00 PM

Fuddruckers, just South of the Fountains

Shopping Center on US 59 outbound..

#### 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

[jwm@hal-pc.org](mailto:jwm@hal-pc.org)

#### Eating Schedule

Saturday morning breakfasts

Third Thursday dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Location announced in text of this edition.

#### Rag Chew Net

3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays

at 7:00 p.m.

#### Public Service Net

Monday night on 146.94 (PL 167.9) at

8:00 PM

## **BVARC EATING SCHEDULE**

### **SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST**

59 DINER, 7:30a.m., SW Freeway outbound service road, near Kirkwood.

NEW YORK COFFEE & BAGEL SHOP, 7:30a.m., 9720 Hillcroft.

### **THIRD THURSDAY/FRIDAY DINNER:**

These dinners are CANCELLED.

Need a new manager for them.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER! Email to [sfwilson@hal-pc.org](mailto:sfwilson@hal-pc.org)

or

call Sam at 713-723-9952, or call a club officer.

### **OTHER HAM GROUPS:**

#### **WEDNESDAYS – WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH**

LUBY'S CAFETERIA, 10:30a.m. to 12:00Noon +, 9797 South Post Oak Road, just south of the I-610 Loop in Meyer Park Shopping Center.

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

PAPPAS BARBECUE. 11:30a.m., SW corner Westheimer & Gessner.



## **Hamfests**

(within 200 miles of Houston)

Hamfest info for the next few months. More information at:

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html#listing>

10 Jul 2010+ Tidelands Amateur Radio Society

Doyle Convention Center

[2010 5th Avenue North](http://www.tidelands.org), Texas City, TX

<http://www.tidelands.org>

**Talk-In:** 147.140+ (PL 167.9) & 442.025 (PL 103.5)

24 July, Pearland Amateur Radio Club Tailgate Sale

7AM to Noon

4717 Bailey Rd , Pearland, TX 77581

August 6 & 7, Austin Summerfest 2010

ARRL Texas State Convention

Austin ARC and Texas VHF FM Society

Austin Airport Marriott South, 4415 South IH-35, Austin, TX 73301

<http://www.austinsummerfest.org>

**Talk-In:** 146.34/.94 MHz (no tone)





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BVARC Website: <http://www.bvarc.org>  
Editor: John Chauvin, K5IZO, [k5izo@yahoo.com](mailto:k5izo@yahoo.com)  
Production Team: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, [k5cam@arri.net](mailto:k5cam@arri.net)  
Claude Sessions, K5HFY, [k5hfy@arri.net](mailto:k5hfy@arri.net)

**Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC)** was organized in 1977, 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 area. BVARC is a Non-Profit Corporation classified by IRS as 501-(c)-(3).

Today **BVARC** is truly a general interest amateur radio club 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 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. General membership dues are \$20.00 per year, with student dues \$10.00 per year, additional 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 7:00 p.m. at the Houston Community College's Scarcella campus in Stafford. A Public Service Net is held each Monday at 8 p.m. on the 145.47 (minus offset, PL 123 tone) repeater & 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, contact the club's "Elmer," Ross Lawler, W5HFF at 281-342-3340 or [w5hff@yahoo.com](mailto:w5hff@yahoo.com) or see the BVARC website: [www.bvarc.org](http://www.bvarc.org)

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**JULY 2010**

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