



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

MARCH 2017

VOLUME 41 ISSUE 3

## BVARC MARCH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, March 09, 2016 7:30pm. 421 Eldridge

We'll be talking about the upcoming Houston Hamfest (March 24th and 25<sup>th</sup>) during the meeting. There are many events to attend and opportunities for involvement. It'll be the biggest and best yet. We'll also field a report about the Amateur Radio Parity Act bill – HR555, that's currently in the U.S. Senate.



### Report on the February General Membership Meeting

Bill Cordell (W5VOM) had presented a program about radio interference, safe RF exposure limits and the safety considerations concerning rooftop antenna installations. Many slides included pictures of actual rooftop installations, with a variety of commercial antenna layouts. The program was well received with a variety of questions about Bill's work and member concerns about their own installations.



### Amateur Radio Public Service Events

In addition to the Houston Marathon (January) and the MS 150, Houston to Austin bicycle event (April 29-30), there is another event that has engaged a large number of Houston Hams - the Buffalo Bayou Regatta.

The 45<sup>th</sup> Regatta will be on Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup>. It is the largest canoe and kayak race in Texas and fifth largest in the U.S. with 400 boats and 800 participants. Hams are encouraged to contact Ketih Dutson NM5G [kdutson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kdutson@sbcglobal.net) to volunteer. The event lasts from about 7am to roughly 1pm, with various assignments along the 15 mile course along Buffalo Bayou. The race starts from Voss road and meanders to the Wortham Center downtown. An article about ham radio involvement in the event appeared in the May 2010 QST. Mark Janzer – K5MGJ and Matt Woodruff – KA5YYD paddle amateur radio equipped safety boats through the course. Emergency communications are coordinated with Houston 911.



### GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST

Friday & Saturday, March 24 & 25

Will you be there?

What are you doing to “make it happen?” Regardless of your physical condition, the Hamfest can always use your help, either in preparation, setup, execution or teardown. See articles in this issue.



## The Prez Says

I want to thank Bill Cordell, W5VOM, for his presentation in February. It was well received and I know it will help club members on RF exposure and interference issues in the future. Bill has worked in many telecommunications projects across the United States and has seen many unique problems and issues throughout the years. Bill will always have an answer for RF problems (whether it is correct or not!).

Just a quick side note about Bill – I worked for Bill over 20 years ago. He gave me a chance to expand in a new field as well as expand my exposure to the telecommunications world. I want to thank Bill for that chance he gave me 22 years ago.

With less than one month to go for the Greater Houston Hamfest, everyone on the planning committee is working around the clock to organize another great event. There are still a ton of things that need to be done to make the Hamfest successful. The one thing that will be needed to make a successful Hamfest is volunteers. So if you are interested in helping out, contact Jon Noxon or Pete Sauermilch or myself. We will need a number of people to make it a success. Keep checking you e-mail and the BVARC web site for the next Hamfest meeting.

Mark Janzer, K5MGJ, is working hard for Museum Ships Weekend on the USS Stewart in Galveston. The interest is high this year with us returning to the USS Stewart to operate. If you would like to help for MSWE, let Mark know. I know we will be up and ready for the event in June. Thanks again Mark for your hard work.

Field Day is just around the corner and now is the time to start getting prepared for it. Allen Brier, N5XZ, the self-appointed guru of scheduling, is taking names and getting things ready for Field Day. Bill Cordell, W5VOM, has jumped in to be the Master of Radio Energy distribution with a great selection of antennas. Field Day still needs a general coordinator of the event so if you are ready (or not), let the BOD know. Don't be bashful, step up and volunteer for the great club event.

Hope to see everyone at the March meeting or at the Greater Houston Hamfest.

73,

N5VCX



## Your Field Day, Your Banquet, Your Ice Cream Social, Your Newsletter, Your Chili Supper, Your Museum Ships



Your BVARC dues pay for a small fraction of the costs. The rest is paid for by **Your Hamfest**. You know where I'm going with this. Your help is needed to make this a success. You don't step up, kiss a couple of the above goodbye. Volunteer early and often! Jon Noxon is your **Grand High Dragon of Volunteers**. Email him at [jon@noxon.cc](mailto:jon@noxon.cc). Call him at **(281) 343-9965**. We need people to man BVARC tables, building doors Friday and Saturday, introduce speakers, run the raffles. **We need you for everything! No really, EVERYTHING!** Don't wait, all the good jobs go first.

Submitted by: Pete Sauermilch, KD5QPX, Hamfest Co-Chairperson



16th Annual

# GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST



## 2017 ARRL

### Texas State Convention Two Days of Activities

**Admission: Friday is FREE, Saturday is \$10**

Friday	March 24, 2017	Workshops & Kit Building	3 PM - 8:00 PM
Saturday	March 25, 2017	Sessions	8 AM - 3:00 PM
		Sales, Tailgate, Raffles	8 AM - 3:30 PM

Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 4310 Texas-36 Rosenberg, TX 77471

👉 [www.HoustonHamfest.org](http://www.HoustonHamfest.org) 👈

## Technical Programs

## Speakers

- Kit Building (see [www.HoustonHamfest.org](http://www.HoustonHamfest.org))
- Soldering Workshop
- CW Pile-Up Contest
- Two Remote, internet enabled HF Stations
- Two Balloon Launches with accompanying technical program
- DSTAR, Digital Mobile, & IoT
- Reverse Beacon Network, Solar Power
- Tonga DXpedition Expedition

- Tim Duffy: COO, DX Engineering
- Dr. David Woolweaver & Bob Inderbitzen: ARRL
- Joe Eisenberg: CQ Magazine Kit Building
- Dr. Edgar Sanchez-Sinencio, Tx A&M
- Dr. Robert Feldtman
- Bill Crowell, Hal Fuglaar, Jason Johnson, Andy MacAllister, Allen Mattis, Ken Miller, Bill Pellerin, Jack Philley

### GRAND PRIZE

Raffle 1<sup>st</sup> Prize

### Texas Convention Prize

Raffle 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize

### Committee Prize

Raffle 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

### Elecraft K3s



### Icom IC-7300



### RigExpert AA-54



**Raffle tickets can only be purchased on site.**

Sign up for the free Hamfest Newsletter

**Everything you could want to know at [www.HoustonHamfest.org](http://www.HoustonHamfest.org).**

**Where in the World is . . .  
The Dry Tortugas (K4T)  
IOTA NA-079**

Proving that you do not have to go halfway around the world, a 2012 DXpedition to the Dry Tortugas, is a case in point.

I'll bet you thought the next stop after Jimmy Buffet's Key West locale was Cuba? You'd be wrong Dick Tracy!

The small group of islands lying in the Gulf of Mexico at the end of the Florida Keys, the Dry Tortugas are jointly claimed by both the U.S. and the Conch Republic.



The Republic was formally created in 1982 by the "secession" of the Florida Keys in protest to U.S. Border Patrol roadblocks that were hindering tourist traffic. The **Conch Republic** is a micro nation declared as a tongue-in-cheek secession of the city of Key West, Florida, from the United States on April 23, 1982. It has been maintained as a tourism booster for the city since. Since then, the term "Conch Republic" has been expanded to refer to "all of the Florida Keys, or, that geographic apportionment of land that falls within the legally defined boundaries of Monroe County, Florida, northward to 'Sheeter's Last Chance Saloon' in Florida City, Dade County, Florida, with Key West as the nation's capital and all territories north of Key West being referred to as 'The Northern Territories. '"



After losing a brief court battle with the Border Patrol, the mayor of Key West declared the secession of Key West and including the Dry Tortugas. The Conch Republic honors the amateur radio licenses and call signs of US hams and gladly accepts U.S. currency.

Florida's keys are low and irregular. Some keys have thin growths of mangroves and various other vegetation, while others have only small patches of grass or are devoid of plant life. In general, they rise abruptly from relatively deep water. They are

continually changing in size and shape.

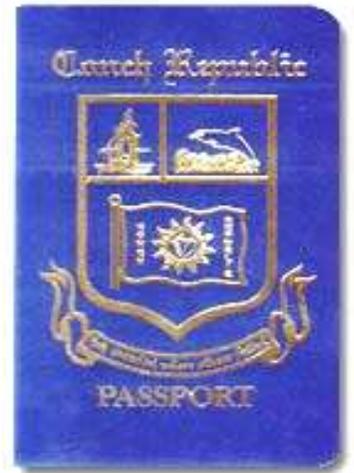
The Tortugas Atoll has had up to 11 islets during the past two centuries. Some of the smaller islands have disappeared and reappeared multiple times as a result of hurricanes. Today, they constitute the Dry Tortugas National Park. The park can be reached by ferry or seaplane from Key West. Limited camping is available.

The main feature of the islands is Garden Key, which houses Fort Jefferson. The fort started in 1846, was never completed. During the Civil War, it was used as a prison.

The first European to see the Dry Tortugas was Ponce de León in 1513. The preponderance of sea turtles caused him to refer to the areas as the "Tortugas" (turtles). They are called *Dry* owing to the absence of surface fresh water on the island.

In 2016 a team of six hams with proper documents took their equipment, food, and all supplies to operate on Dry Tortuga Island May 6-9, 2016. If you blinked you missed it.

This DXpedition was something special for DX chasers. Since the Dry Tortugas are a National Park, special designation from the ARRL, National Parks on the Air and World Wide Flora & Fauna were added to the NA-049 and a rare grid square, EL84np as well.



According to Rick K4JTT, "Our purpose was to activate a lighthouse and IOTA for other hams to contact. We'll have fun, give other hams a chance to get credit for a new Islands on the Air (IOTA) credit, have fun, test out our skills in setting up portable stations, have fun, and challenge our operating skills. Oh, did I mention it is to have fun?" I guess they had fun.

Reporting from the Dark Side,  
Ron, K5HM



A TYPICAL BVARCer

**I intend to enjoy the Hamfest.**

**I might win the K3S,**

**but I would "settle" for the IC-7300.**

**Oh heck, the AA-54 is just fine.**

**I also want to win a door prize.**

**But I won't do any of these until I know I pulled my weight in helping whether in preparation, setup, execution and/or teardown.**

**I know BVARC needs help from all levels of physical ability, limitations and skills.**

**Without me, the Hamfest cannot occur, and I couldn't enjoy it.**

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**Contact: Rick Hiller – W5RH      [rick@tavco.net](mailto:rick@tavco.net)      cell:713-591-4792**



## BVARC Monday Night Public Service Net Updates

Don't forget the BVARC Monday Night Net starts at **8 pm** on 146.94 (167.9). The order of check-ins starts 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 Rick, w5rh, if you are interested. Here are recent check-ins with control-ops:

11/14 - 15 - Steve, kf5yyz	12/19 - 14 - Jo, ke7nsb	1/23/17 - 23 - Clint, kf5ndf
11/21 - 15 - Jo, ke7nsb	12/26 - 14 - Clint, kf5hdf	1/30/17 - 18 - Terry, k5pgf
11/28 - 23 - Clint, kf5hdf	1/2/17 - 16 - Jimmy, w5ztx	2/6/17 - 18 - Julie, kf5flz
12/5 - 13 - Ron, k5hm	1/9/17 - 21 - Steve, kf5yyz	2/13/17 - 13 - Jo, ke7nsb
12/12 - 15 - Steve, kf5yyz	1/16/17 - 16 - Jo, ke7nsb	2/20/17 - 13 - Dave, k5ekw

## BVARC QUICK STATS

Date	Members	Newsletters	Life Members
2/23/17	179	189	67



## Editor's Faux Pas:

Over the past 2 years, unbeknownst to the editor, some format changes occurred to the whole document Page Setup which affected margins and page length. As the newsletters start with a Save As of the previous issue, these changes carried over to the following issue. This resulted in some appearance changes and necessitated some brute force manual format changes with each article. This especially became apparent with last month's The Radio Hotel article. Therefore, the authors of each article will be requested to use a template, which they will receive, which should result in minimizing these required changes in the future and for the appearance of the articles to be closer to what the author intended. FYI – it is not the Editor's intent to change fonts and other layout changes so they all look the same; Quite the contrary, by not changing the fonts, etc. for conformity, each article will better retain the "flavor" of what the author intended.

Mea culpa – Editor

# The Radio Hotel - What is Old is New Again -

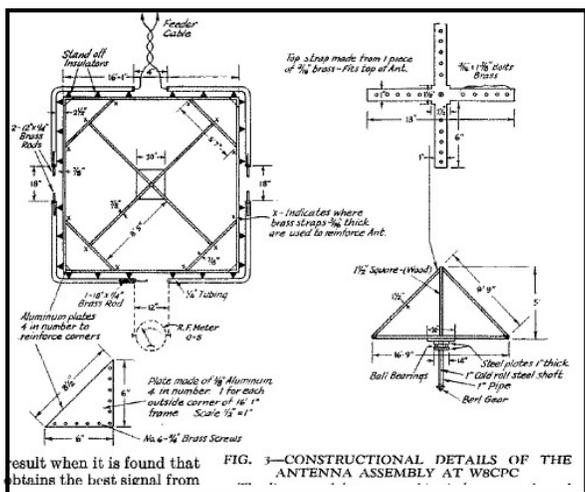
## The Hex Beam and The Moxon Rectangle

By Rick Hiller -- W5RH

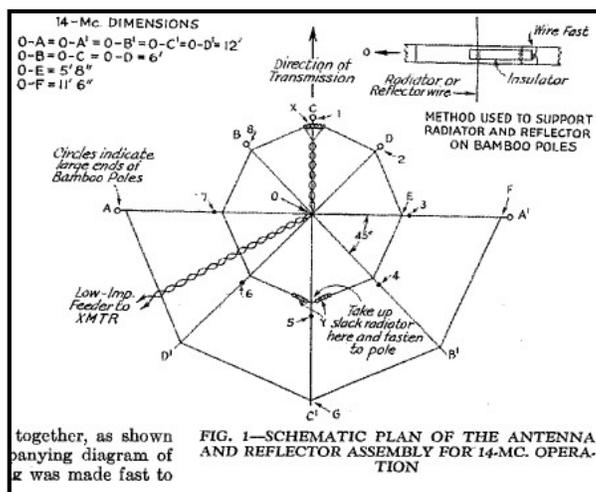
In the past 20 years or so, a couple of antennas have been at the fore front of attention of Amateur Radio participants. They are the Hex beam, or "spider beam", and the Moxon Rectangle....and rightly so. Both are a great way to reduce the size of a multi-element Yagi-Uda with some added benefits, too boot. Most of us have probably thought that the Hex Beam and Les Moxon's rectangle were new and unique ideas, but who would have thought that they are not. There are interesting correlations between the modern designs and those from 1937. Maybe these newer antennas were conceived for different reasons, but if it looks like a duck...well, you know the rest. I will let you decide for yourself, below.

On the left, **Figure 1** - QST October 1937 Page 29 -- W8CPC "The Square Signal Squirter" - bending the element ends of the driven element and the reflector into a rectangle. Similar to a Moxon Rectangle.

**Figure 1**



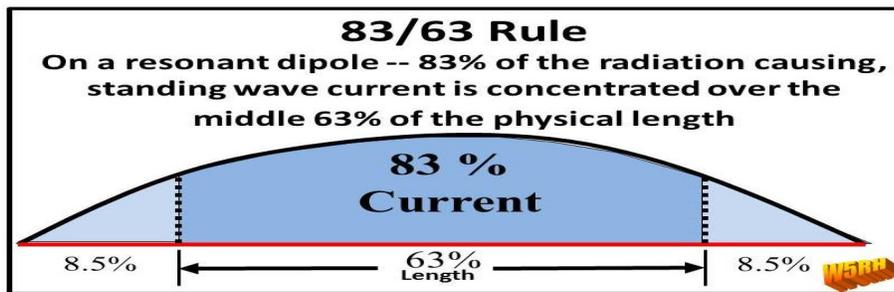
**Figure 2**



On the right, **Figure 2** - QST December 1937 Page 25-26 W8MRR "Spider Web Loop Antenna" - combining 1/2 wave elements bent around a multi-sided Hex shaped structure. Similar to the Hex beam.

**Note:** Please check out the original articles from 1937 using the QST search engine (a favorite watering hole of mine) at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-periodicals-archive-search>

Both the Square Signal Squirter and the Moxon utilize, coincidentally, my W5RH "83/63 rule" ....which states that 83% of the total radiating current amplitude on a half wavelength element is located in the middle 63% of the physical element length. This allows orthogonal folding of the element ends, with little degradation in pattern strength.



Remember this about antennas -- the physics does not change over time, only the construction materials used and the implementations. For example: Working with the newer digital modes is quite fascinating. Some that do play with them might think that old school antenna work as antiquated. However, nothing could be further from the truth. The development of antenna theory and physical implementation back in the 1920's and 30's is just as relevant today in the digital world, because as soon as you place that digital modulation on a carrier and send it via the coax to the antenna, it is just as much RF as a simple CW signal. The antenna does not care what the modulation scheme is. It could be JT65 or A1. It will radiate the one just as well as the other.

Enjoy your hobby. GL ES 73 DE W5RH

**Next time.... The Other Antenna Attributes** *The purpose of The Radio Hotel is to give you a practical kickstart into exploring the workings of antenna systems Google the buzz words and find out what they mean. Read up on antenna system theory to see how it all works together. You will be glad you did.*



**Results of the February 14th  
BVARC Amateur License Examination Session  
by: John Moore, KK5NU**

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at HCC Southwest College Stafford Campus - Scarcella Building here in Stafford, TX

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

John Moore, KK5NU  
George Ontko, KM5VP  
Randy Pugh, AA5OA

One examination element was administered during the evening to one applicant. An upgrade was attained to General class, with the total number of elements passed being 1. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

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

Andre Kowalczyk      -    N5WWX    - 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 Southwest College Stafford Campus - Scarcella Building for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

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**BVARC Historical Vignettes – The Greater Houston Hamfest**  
Allen Mattis N5AFV, Club Historian

One of the most important BVARC activities is the Greater Houston Hamfest (GHH); this annual event funds the club's activities throughout the year. The GHH actually began as the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club MIX 'n' MATCH SWAP MEET.

The first mention of the MIX 'n' MATCH SWAP MEET appeared in the March 2003 club newsletter with an announcement of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual MIX 'n' MATCH SWAP MEET being held 8 AM to 12:00 noon at the Sugar Land Community Center. It is likely that the first MIX 'n' MATCH SWAP MEET was held in 2002 but it is not mentioned in the 2002 club newsletters. In 2006 the name of the MIX 'n' MATCH SWAP MEET was changed to the Greater Houston Hamfest (GHH).

The first GHH was held in the Sugar Land Community Center. The club leadership soon recognized that a larger venue was needed, and in 2007 the GHH was moved to the current location at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in Rosenberg. GHH has been at that location for the past ten years. During that period of time the GHH has expanded to fill three buildings and attendance continues to grow.



## *Minutes of the February 4, 2017 Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club*

### Board Members Present:

Mike Hardwick N5VCX (President.)  
Mark Janzer K5MGJ (Vice President)  
Donovan Balli KG5BDZ (Treasurer)  
Jon Noxon KF5TFJ (Rec. Secretary)  
Scott Medbury KD5FBA (2yr @ Lg Dir)  
Jo L Keener KE7NSB (2yr @ Lg Dir)  
JP Pritchard KG5MBG (yr @ Lg Dir)

### Non-voting attendees:

John Chauvin K5IZO (Parliamentarian)  
Ron Litt K5HM (Radio Sport)  
Michael Monsour ACØTX (QM)  
Cam Mitchell K5CAM  
Jerry Muller K9GEM  
Pete Sauermilch KD5QPX

A Quorum was established.

### Minutes:

1. Call to order. Club President Mike Hardwick called the regularly scheduled monthly Board of Directors meeting for the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 9:05:15 AM on January 7, 2017. The meeting was held at the Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston, Texas 77074.
2. The opening statement from Club President briefly covered the Super Bowl weekend and the 10M contest.
3. No emergency business.
4. A motion made and passed to accept the minutes of the January 2017 meeting as published in the February 2017 Club Newsletter.
5. A motion made and passed to accept the Treasurer's report presented by Donovan Balli, Club Treasurer.

### 6 Old Business

6a Hamfest: next organization meeting to be held February 4 following the Board of Directors Meeting. Deposit has been made for Fair Grounds. Due to ongoing construction at the facility, logistical problems are anticipated and are being worked. However, everything is moving forward.

6b Field Day: Club still needs a coordinator for Field Day; TXDX is on board so we will once again be multi-club (ECHO not yet confirmed). Antenna guru will be Bill Cordell.

### 6c General Member Ship Meetings:

Club Banquet had 54 attendees at cost of \$2861 and change; some discussion of doing something different next year.

February 9, 2017 Radio Interference and RF exposure by Bill Cordell

March 9, 2017 TBD

April 13, 2017 CW by Nizar

May 11, 2017 Museum Ships (and something else TBD) Discussion follows:

A work party for the Stewart met on January 15 to prepare the vessel for Museum Ships Weekend. Work party was coordinated by K5MGJ, who gave a report to the BOD. An additional work party date is TBD (around mid April).

6d TBD if Masonic Lodge Contract has cleared all hurdles; check has not cleared; Mike will call to get them to cash the Club check and also check on promised extra key.

6e Report on "Testing for Scouts" by K5MGJ. A special testing session was held of six candidates, four scouts and two adults; only adults passed the exam; two scouts missed by a few questions and the other two by a lot; "Ham in a Day" class with 16 participants; only one passed; further activity with scouts TBD

6f Analysis of pros and cons of electronic only publication of the Club Newsletter presented by K5IZO; after a lengthy discussion going to electronic only newsletter not approved

6g The club parliamentarian discussed requirements for BOD appointment to fill vacant Corresponding Secretary position; appointment would be effective until the next general election (November meeting); possibility to revise the Bylaws to allow further changes in procedure TBD; Motion made and passed to appoint Jon KF5TFJ to fill the vacant Corresponding Secretary until the November elections. Jon now has both Secretary positions (but only one vote!)

### 7 New Business

- a) Ron Litt K5 HM reported the ARRL Directors have adopted a Code of Conduct; members of ARRL seems to have been closed out of knowledge of ARRL board activities.
- b) Jon KF5TFJ suggested term dates be added to Officer's list in the newsletter

NOTE: All dates for 2017 Board of Directors Meetings have been set as follows

January 7,  
February 4  
March 4  
April 8

May 6  
June 3  
July 8  
August 5

September 9  
October 7  
November 4  
December 9

All dates have been reserved at Bayland Park on Bissonnet. Meetings are open to all and Club Members are encouraged to attend and be engaged in Club governance.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 AM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Jon Noxon KF5TFJ



## **BVARC Rag Chew Net**

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

01/25/17, K5LKJ (NCS), AA5OA, W5VOM, W5HFF, W5TKZ, W5TOM, K5LJ, AF5T, KG3JPP, KF5TFJ, AF5XL, N8NOV. (11 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 84, SN = 55, A = 3, K = 0

02/01/17, K5LKJ (NCS), W5TKZ, KD5O, K5IZO, KF5TFJ, W5HFF, K5LJ, W5RH, AA0ST (Dickinson), W5VOM, AF5T. (11 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 75, SN = 42, A = 24, K = 5

02/08/17, K5LKJ (NCS), K5IZO/5 (Jasper), W5HFF, AA5OA, W5TOM, W5RH, K5LJ, KF5TFJ, W5TKZ, N5EKW (Katy), AF5XL, KC5JAR (Katy), W5VOM, AA0ST (Dickinson). (13 Check-Ins)

Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 73, SN = 11, A = 7, K = 1

02/15/17, K5LKJ (NCS), W5HFF, W5TOM, AA5OA, KF5TFJ, W5TKZ, K5LJ, N5EKW (Katy), KG3JPP, K5IZO, AF5T, W5RH, AF5XL, KD5CDM, K0LTB (T). (12 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 24: SFI = 74, SN = 15, A = 6, K = 1

(M) = mobile (P) = Portable (R) = Relay (RCS) = remote controlled station (T) = telephone check-in

Sam Wilson, N5CPA, former net control operator for the BVARC Rag Chew Net, celebrated his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday in San Antonio recently.

Beat the Solar Minimum Blues by attending the BVARC Rag Chew Net.

Come join in the conversation each Wednesday evening. Regards. John K5LKJ

Regards. John K5LKJ



## 2017 Officers:

President (2016-2017)  
Michael Hardwick, N5VCX  
[n5vcx@att.net](mailto:n5vcx@att.net)

Vice President (2017-2018)  
Mark Janzer K5MGJ  
[k5mgj@yahoo.com](mailto:k5mgj@yahoo.com)

Recording Secretary (temp until Nov. 9, 2017)  
Jon Noxon KF5TFJ  
[jon@noxon.cc](mailto:jon@noxon.cc)

Corresponding Secretary (temp until Nov. 9, 2017)  
Jon Noxon KF5TFJ  
[jon@noxon.cc](mailto:jon@noxon.cc)

Treasurer (2017-2018)  
Donovan Balli, KG5BDZ  
[dballi@mail.com](mailto:dballi@mail.com)

2 Year At-Large Board Member A: (2016-2017)  
Jo Keener – KE7NSB  
[jo.l.keener@juno.com](mailto:jo.l.keener@juno.com)

2 Year At-Large Board Member B: (2017-2018)  
Scott Medbury KD5FBA  
[smedbury@windstream.net](mailto:smedbury@windstream.net)

1 Year At Large (2017)  
JP (Richard) Pritchard KG3JPP  
[jppnews@comcast.net](mailto:jppnews@comcast.net)

### Regularly Scheduled Club Happenings:

#### General Meeting

Second Thursday each month, 7:30 PM  
2511 Eldridge Rd, Sugar Land, 77478, Eldridge Park Conference Center (Check page 1)

#### Board of Directors Meeting

The Saturday before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 10:00 AM (For Sept., check website)  
Bayland Park Community Center  
Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet,

#### Volunteer Examiner Program

BVARC administers Amateur License Exams on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)

#### 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



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

Rates are as follows; \$25 per month for ½ page, \$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:

#### WEDNESDAYS – WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH

LUBY'S CAFETERIA, 10:30a.m. to 12:00Noon +, 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>

### **03/10-11/2017 | Rayne Hamfest**

**Location:** Rayne, LA

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Acadiana Amateur Radio Association

**Website:** <http://www.w5ddl.org/hamfest/index.htm>

### **03/11/2017 | HamEXPO**

**Location:** Belton, TX

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Temple Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://www.TARC.org/hamexpo/>

### **03/24-25/2017 | Texas State Convention (Greater Houston Hamfest)**

**Location:** Rosenberg, TX

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

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

# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

This newsletter 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 newsletter 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 normally held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Sugar Land Masonic Lodge, 421 Eldridge Rd, Sugar Land, 77478. Check the above website for any possible changes.

**BVARC** also administers amateur radio license exams on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 146.94 (minus offset, PL 167.9 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 281-701-7602 or see the BVARC website: [www.bvarc.org](http://www.bvarc.org)

Other contacts include:

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

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

**FIRST CLASS POSTAGE**

**Board of Directors and Hamfest meetings – Saturday, March 4, 9:00 & 10:30. Check Reflector or website for location**

**BVARC General Membership Meeting – Thursday, March 9**

**Greater Houston Hamfest – Friday & Saturday, March 24 & 25**



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