



# BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

OCTOBER 2006

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 10

## OCTOBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The featured speaker for the October general membership meeting will be Charles Frost "Frosty," K5LBU, who will talk on South African DXpeditions. The meeting will take place at the Sugar Land Community Center at 7:30 PM, Thursday, October 12.

## SEPTEMBER MEETING PRESENTATION ON GROUNDING – VERY INFORMATIVE

Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ, gave an very interesting and informative presentation on grounding. He dispelled a lot of myths and clarified much about this often misunderstood and intriguing, yet important subject.



## President's Corner

As this issue of the newsletter goes to press, Mike's inputs are not available due to business travel requirements. Look for his usual articles in the next month's issue.

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## FISTS SPRINT!

Saturday, October 14.

Here is another opportunity to both get a little experience in CW and also a little low key (hi, hi) contest experience. Four times a year, FISTS (an international CW organization) has a "sprint" for only 4 hours where one can make a lot of CW contacts and possibly add a lot of states. It takes place, Saturday, October 14, from 12 Noon to 4PM Houston time. Go to [www.fists.org](http://www.fists.org) for details.

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## BVARC 2006 ANNUAL PICNIC & CAMPOUT

Picnic: Saturday, November 9th, 2006

Time: 12:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Location: Coushatte Recreation Ranch

Website: [www.coushatte.com](http://www.coushatte.com)

See website for driving instructions

Off State Hwy. 36 Between Sealy and Bellville

Entry fee for picnic: None

Food & beverage: bring your own

In the unlikely event that it rains, we retire to the meeting room.

Talk-In Frequency: 146.52

Sponsor: BVARC & Amateur Radio Campers

Campout: November 8, 9 & 10

Camping Fee: \$17.00 per night, 30 Amp, \$19.00 per night, 50 Amp

Sites have power, water and hookups.

Picnic Information: Call John Whiteman, K5LKJ, 281-530-0432

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### Houston Amateur Radio Supply

181 Cypresswood Drive

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<http://texasparadise.com/hars/> George DiLetto KD0RW

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## TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASSES

By the time you read this, a Technician License class with about 35 attendees will have been just completed. This class took place on 2 consecutive Saturdays, 4 hours each day. Hopefully many will take the test at BVARC's testing session on Tuesday, October 10. We have already been asked to do another class before the holidays. This will be published in the November newsletter and on the BVARC website.

RESULTS OF THE August 8<sup>th</sup> and September 12th  
B-VARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSIONS  
by: John Moore, KK5NU

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, August 8, 2006 and Tuesday, September 12, 2006 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus in Stafford.

For August, MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM were:

Dennis Dietrich, W5DDD, Jeff Fussell, KD5VGE & Larry Jacobson, K5LJ

Four examination elements were administered during the evening to three applicants. Three new Technician licenses were attained, one with HF privileges; 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:

Theodore L. Drell, III - {KE5JZA} - Tech w/HF  
Meranzo C. Johnson - {KE5JYZ} - Technician  
William Polhemus - {KE5JYY} - Technician

For September, MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM were:

Dennis Dietrich, W5DDD, Larry Jacobson, K5LJ, John Moore, KK5NU & George Ontko, KM5VP

Eight examination elements were administered during the evening to seven applicants. Two new Technician licenses were attained; one upgrade to General and one to Amateur Extra, with the total number of elements passed being 5. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 62.5%.

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

Barry C. Beuereshausen - Technician  
Lemoyne Bower - KD5JCY - General  
Theodore L. Drell, III - KE5JZA - Extra  
James M. Walsh - 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 Technology Center for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

....73....

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# THE BVARC Rag Chew Net

*By Joe Morgan, K5JWM, Net Coordinator*  
July 2006 check-ins  
3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00PM

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 BVARC 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.

09/06/06\_\_K5JWM, K5CEK, KE5SR, K5HFY, K5LBU, N5CPA, K5LJ, WA5VRB, W5UHZ, KE5CUT, KJ5SS, N8NOV, W5RH, W5UFK, KA5MEI, KD7THJ, K5VRJ, AB5BA, WB4KTF. Check-ins (19)

09/13/06\_\_K5JWM, KB5SIT, K5CEK, W5UHZ, KE5SR, KJ5SS, K5LJ, KE5CUT, NM5K, W5RH, W5LWR, WB9O, KE5CDE, KE5CFF, KC5SQD. Check-ins (15)

09/20/06\_\_K5JWM, KB5SIT, K5CEK, K5HFY, KE5SR, KE5CUT, W5RH, N8NOV, W5UHZ, K5LJ, NM5K, KJ5SS, WA5VRB, WB5SRN, KA5MEI, W5UFK. Check-ins (16)

09/27/06\_\_N5CPA, KE5SR, K5CEK, W5RH, KJ5SS, KE5CUT, N8NOV, NM5K, W5LWR, WA5VRB, WG9O. Check-ins (11)



Maurie, VK3CWB, and his daughter, Bianca, were hosted in Houston recently by Mel, KB5ION, and his wife, Mary. BVARC Hams attending an open house in their honor were (L to R) VK3CWB, W5RH, KE5SR, KB5Q, KB5ION and K5CEK

## Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Minutes of September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006 meeting; Board of Directors

Mike Hardwick called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:30 PM on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at the Live Oak Grill, 12935 Dairy Ashford Rd, Sugar Land. Attending were: Mike Hardwick, N5VCX (Pres.); Allen Brier, N5XZ (V P); Ross Lawler, W5HFF (Treas./Cor. Sec.); Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.); Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ (1-Yr. Dir.); Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM (At Large); Charles Frost, K5LBU; John Chauvin K5IZO; Ron Dearman, N5RLD; Bill Stone KE5CUT; Andre Vanwyk, K4WPX

- 1) Minutes for August 2006 meeting was approved as published in newsletter after attendee list revised (typo).
- 2) Treasurer's Report was presented to the Board. BVARC had total \$3,941.41 assets, \$122.80 liabilities, with a remaining bank balance of \$3,818.61. BVARC has a CD estimated at \$3,216.28.
- 3) Old Business:
  - a) Growth: Hardwick proposed that BVARC solicit Sugar Land businesses as club sponsors.
  - b) By Law Changes: Proposed revisions agreed upon provided one sentence is changed.
  - c) 2007 Hamfest: Hardwick is searching for keynote speaker. Chauvin and Sauermilch are producing a vendor mail-out with a maximum expenditure of \$60 postage approved by BoD. A discussion regarding a mail-out to area clubs and hams was tabled after short discussion.
- 4) General Meeting Schedule:
  - a) September: Grounding
  - b) October: DX Safari
  - c) November: Chilly Supper and Elections  
There will be three (3) Board of Director positions up for election. They will be; Vice-President, Treasurer/Corresponding Secretary, one At-Large Director.
  - d) December: Home Brew Night
  - e) January: Banquet
- 5) New business:
  - a) Station equipment has been donated to BVARC by KG6JLC and the son of Harry Hammond (KD5EOF).
  - b) Bill Stone (KE5CUT) suggested changes to the BVARC website and proposed the club acquire a 10-10 number and that someone handle 10-10 activities for the club. Discussion enlarged to JOTA, FIST, and QSL manager activities.
  - c) Cameron Mitchell announced that he plans to resign his At-Large Director on or about January.
- 6) Other Business: Hardwick requested assistance with the Tour de Pink, 09/09/06.
- 7) Meeting adjourned at 09:05 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary Peter Sauermilch-KD5QPX

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### THE PHYSICS DOESN'T CHANGE, BUT THE APPLICATION DOES BY RICK HILLER – W5RH

Twenty, or so, years ago, I used to have an occasional lunch with W5IHY. Most of you know him, Lou Kronberg, now a Silent Key, as that feisty guy who caused trouble at the B-VARC meetings (said in jest, please). Lou was a great antenna man and a true "Golden Age of Ham Radio" ham. I was a neophyte in my antenna understanding back then. Lou picked up on that and the fact that I was hungry to learn. Lou received all of the monthly, US published, magazines and even some from outside the US. So, each month he would gather the antenna articles and, when we met in his "office" at the flag company, we would talk about them all. I could ask my dumb questions, as I called them, and Lou would answer. Lou was a nice fellow and a good Elmer, plus we always had excellent bar-b-que for the post-discussion lunch, hi.

Recently, I have been buying older antenna books on E-bay. Excellent finds from the "Golden Age". Aerial books, with printing dates of 1977, 1963, 1957 and even 1946, now join other vintage and current volumes on the shelves of my ever expanding amateur radio antenna library. One of these great finds is a book published by CQ in the early 60's titled Antenna Roundup, edited by K2BUS. It is very similar in form to the present ARRL Antenna Anthology series. This CQ edition was their first "antenna only" anthology and it documents some very interesting history.

I have always said that, in my humble opinion, CQ magazine in the 50's and 60's was one of the best ham radio magazines ever, with excellent technical content. I wrote an article about that topic in the B-VARC newsletter, [http://bvarc.freeshell.org/newsletter/BVARC\\_January\\_06.pdf](http://bvarc.freeshell.org/newsletter/BVARC_January_06.pdf), and the project to put CQ magazine on-line. Presently, they are only back to 1977, but little by little they are getting back to the, so called, 'golden age'. I have some CQ magazines from that era, but not all, so I look forward to accessing every CQ magazine on line some day.

Ok, so why is this old stuff so important? All of the information and more can be had in current printings of various antenna books, so why bother? For one, these books and magazines contain the 'original' articles, where an antenna design or implementation is introduced. You get to read of the authors thought process in their development of the system. They had no EZNEC or TL Details computer software, but yet, all of what they use and write is the same foundation, or cardinal rules, of antenna system design rules and analysis that we use today. In this CQ Antenna Roundup, W3EKA, writes (from July 1957, by the way) "It seems to me that there is no part of amateur radio that is as thoroughly confusing as is the antenna". This statement still rings true today, 50 years later.

2 things in this CQ Antenna Roundup have struck me as 'a find'. The first is the articles by W3HH, the inventor of the Terminated Folded Dipole or as we know it the T2FD, Tilted Terminated Folded Dipole. Captain G.L. Countryman, inventor, describes the T2FD. This is a very interesting antenna, as it has multi-band capability in a shortened form. He gives all of the design highlights and additional notes. The original articles were from 1951 and 1952 CQ magazines. Today you can find many articles about the T2FD online. Google search on 'T2FD' plus 'Cebik', 'HCDX' or 'Radio Havana Cuba'. Check it out.

The second find is an article called "Understanding Very High Frequency Antennas" by Stanley Leinwolf, no amateur call is given. If I could write 12 pages explaining the very basics of antenna system theory "in a nut shell" (ie., propagation, receive antenna fundamentals, driven and parasitic array basics, etc.) then, these are the 12 pages I would write. Many others have written the exact same information, but Mr. Leinwolf does an excellent job of clearly explaining the basics of single element antennas and arrays. I have scanned this article and it now sits in my digital library, as a PDF. If you send me an e-mail, I will forward you a copy.

So what about the "Physics"? The physics applied to these antennas back in the 1950's is the same physics that is applied to antennas that we build today. However, with the antenna modeling and computer simulation programs on our computers, we can very easily and quickly "see" what the results are and use these tools to get the best out of what we hang outside. Hams and antenna engineers of the Golden Age could also plot the response, but it took hours on the slide rule to accomplish even just a single elevation slice.

The major changes came in the application. Materials that we have available today are much different or much improved. For example, imagine building a Stepper IR antenna back in the 60's... I'm sure the U.S. government did, at a cost of a few million dollars, but the average ham did not have the materials at their disposal. The Yagi array's back then were wire based, hung onto wood frames. You could not just walk into a Lowes, Ace or a Home Depot in 1960 and have access to all of those thousands of bits and pieces to build you your own version of, say, the PAC -12 portable QRP vertical. <http://www.njqrp.org/pac-12/> Aluminum tubing was just becoming widely available, but was also fairly high priced. Of course, looking back, sometimes in awe and envy, there were the "candy store" catalogs of Allied, Lafayette and Sears that had all of the goodies and pieces that were needed at that time.

The physics doesn't change, but the application does. The same dilemmas of understanding antenna system theory that we have now were also dilemmas for W5IHY and the other Hams of the Golden Age. What should you do about it? Get back to the basics. Understand the what's and the why's of antennas and things will be clearer for you when you plan a new antenna design for your QTH. There are plenty of good theory books, articles and web sites out there, but you have to start somewhere, and the 1961 CQ article by Leinwolf, "Understanding Very High Frequency Antennas", just might be the perfect starting point for you. I look forward to receiving your e-mail.

Rick - W5RH

e-mail -- [rhiller@sdicgm.com](mailto:rhiller@sdicgm.com)

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## Monday Night NET Updates

Don't forget that the Monday Night Public Service Net starts at **8 pm**, 145.47 (PL -123). 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:

3/20 - 19 - Sid, n5zkd  
3/27 - 24 - Pete, kd5qpx  
4/3 - 23 - Cam, k5cam  
4/17 - 17 - John, k5lkj  
5/1 - 23 - Cam, k5cam  
5/8 - 17 - Mike, n5vcx

5/20 - 13 - Pete, kd5qpx  
6/5 - 12 - Cam, k5cam  
6/12 - 17 - Doug, kc5vyz  
6/19 - 17 - Sid, n5zkd  
6/26 - 15 Pete, kd5qpx  
7/3 - 13 - Cam, k5cam

7/10 - Doug, kc5vyz  
7/17 - 18 - Sid, n5zkd  
7/24 - 15 - Pete, kd5qpx  
7/31 - 18 - John, k5lkj  
8/7 - 29 - Cam, k5cam  
8/14 - 20 - Bill, ke5cut

8/21 - 22 - Bill, ke5cut  
8/28 - 21 - Pete, kd5qpx  
9/4 - 19 - Cam, k5cam  
9/11 - 26 - Mike, k5vcx  
9/18 - 16 - Bill, ke5cut  
9/25 - 18 - Pete, kd5qpx

## 2006 Club Officers:

### President:

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

### Vice President:

Allen Brier, N5XZ  
[n5xz@arrl.net](mailto:n5xz@arrl.net)

### Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:

Ross Lawler, W5HFF  
[w5hff@yahoo.com](mailto:w5hff@yahoo.com)

### Recording Secretary:

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

### One Year Board Member:

Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ  
[polinski@swbell.net](mailto:polinski@swbell.net)

### Two Year Board Member:

Sid Sherwood, N5ZKD  
[n5zkd@arrl.net](mailto:n5zkd@arrl.net)

### Past President / At-large

Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM  
[k5cam@arrl.net](mailto:k5cam@arrl.net)

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## Club Happenings:

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### 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,  
See the website.

### 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 text of this edition.

### 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 145.47 (PL 123.0) at 8:00 PM

## BVARC EATING SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFASTS:

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

### THIRD FRIDAY DINNERS:

For now, this is suspended, due to an illness in the coordinator's family. If someone wants to assume this job temporarily, contact any of the Club Officers as shown on the left.

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## UPCOMING FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

**October – Southern African DXpeditions.**

**November – Chili Supper, Elections &  
By-Laws Amendments**

**December – Homebrew Night**

**January – Annual Awards Banquet**

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## Upcoming Hamfests

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

### **21 October -- Brenham Swapmeet**

Washington County Fairgrounds, 1305 East Horton, Brenham, TX.  
Talk-in 145.390- (PL 103.5) For more info contact  
Friar Gaskamp, KA5BKG 979-251-8024 or [ka5bkg@arrl.net](mailto:ka5bkg@arrl.net)  
<http://www.alpha1.net/~w5aum>

### **November 3rd and 4th**

### **4th Annual Austin Radio Roundup Swapmeet and Banquet**

VFW Post 8787- N. Of Braker on IH35 N access rd.

Details still in the works but likely same as last year!

Camping & RV parking welcome! \$5 RV Hookups, \$5 to dump- 836-8767  
(VFW)

Friday night vendor setup, Dinner Party & Entertainment

Sat setup 7AM, open to public 8AM-noon Talk-in 146.94(-)

Fri & Sat Grand Prizes- TBD

Swapfest table reservations- Lori KM5MQ@arrl.net 512-255-6753

### **March 3, 2007**

### **GREATER HOUSTON HAMFEST**

Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds, Rosenberg, TX.

**Mark your calendars now.** BVARC has 3 times the indoor  
space than previous hamfests. Go the BVARC webpage,  
[www.bvarc.org](http://www.bvarc.org) for details.

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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@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 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 6:00 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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**BRAZOS VALLEY  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
P.O. BOX 2997  
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