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## Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, K5FD

October, 2016 Alpine, Texas

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### **EchoLink May be Coming to the BBARC Repeater System Soon** by Allen Moore, N5NYM

Testing is underway to determine the long term viability of making the popular EchoLink technology available on the club's entire repeater network. EchoLink allows licensed amateur stations to communicate over the internet via streaming audio technology. The system allows users to create worldwide connections between stations or from computer to station, which will extend the reach of our own VHF repeater network.

In many ways the EchoLink system can be thought of as being similar to a telephone autopatch. Any EchoLink user around the world could connect to our repeater system from another linked radio or from a computer running the EchoLink software. There are even apps allowing a licensed amateur to bring up a connection from their smartphone.

Ultimately, the EchoLink connection will exist between our UHF hub repeater on Elephant Mountain and a radio in Alpine, which will connect the linked system to the internet. Doug (N5HYD) has provided a UHF radio programmed for accessing the hub and Bill (W5ATO) has loaned us a suitable antenna for testing. The club's call sign K5FD-R (-R identifies repeaters within EchoLink) will be used to identify our repeaters within the EchoLink system.

When fully operational you could hear stations from around the globe over our repeater network or you could bring up remotely linked stations by 'dialing' them with a DTMF sequence.

At present we do have a computer setup connected to the link radio and antenna testing will be underway soon.

There are a few technical considerations to be worked out that may delay the full, long term deployment of the system; but if you are not already familiar with EchoLink you can get started right away by visiting [echolink.org](http://echolink.org) registering your call sign and downloading the software. Once set up you can use your computer (or smartphone) to connect to EchoLink stations around the world!

### **DX Subject of Next Club Meeting**

Bill, KE5OG, will present a program on basic DXing. The program will include the how's and why's we DX and how best to get those new countries you need. The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 11, at the West Texas National Bank community room.

### **Hurricane Matthew Heads for Florida**

Hurricane Matthew, a Category III storm, appears to be headed for the East Coast of Florida and could impact the entire U.S. East Coast. The Hurricane Net has been activated at 14.325 daytime and 7.268 MHz at night. Additionally, Cuban hams are using 3720, 3740, 7110 and 7120 KHz. Stations are asked to stay clear of all these frequencies during the emergency.

### **Editor, N5DO, Goes TDY, KE5OG to Fill In**

Dave Cockrum, N5DO, who has been the BARK Editor for many years, has temporarily taken a position elsewhere. (After all he is retired...right).

Dave will be back in the Spring. In the meantime, Bill, KE5OG, will do his best to fill in.

**BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT  
From WA5ROE**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Check-ins</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
09/25/16	W5NPR	32 25	
			Jim KD5KBU, Randy K5WWR, and Stephen KE5WLP checked in from CycleFest Fun Ride in Fort Davis. Bob WA5ROE called in from Denver.
09/11/16	WA5ROE	42 40	add to roster KG5LMG, Marvin, Ft. Davis
09/04/16	WA5ROE	42 28	W5NPR called on fon from Vermont. Add to roster KG5OJV, Nancy, from Big Bend.

Remember – the BBEN meets **every** Sunday on 3922 KHz at 8:15 a.m. Central time (either CST or CDT). Visitors are always welcome. Early check-ins are welcome beginning around 8:05 a.m. on 3922 kHz or on the BBARC repeater system.

**BIG BEND 2 METER NET REPORT  
From KA5PVB**

The Big Bend 2 meter net meets every Wednesday evening at 8:00 p.m. Central Time on the Big Bend 2 meter repeater network. These Wednesday evening nets are good training grounds for possible emergency situations. They also provide a “safe” and easy way for new amateurs to get used to talking on the radio.

The net control station calls for check-ins from each of the BBARC repeaters. Listen to make sure the frequency is clear, then sign in by

announcing your call sign. After everyone checks-in the net control calls on each station to make any comments they wish.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Check-ins</u>	<u>Net Control</u>
Sept. 7	14	KA5PVB
Sept. 14	14	KG5BMK
Sept. 21	11	KG5LMG
Sept. 28	12	KG5LMG
		fill-in for W5NPR

51 Total Check-ins for September

Note from KA5PVB: Our thanks to all who check-in to the net and even if you DO NOT want to participate in the round-table discussion after the roll call of repeaters, please take the time to make contact and let us know you're out there by being an "in and out check-in." It will only take you one call to us to get you on the list for the evening, with no further contact to you from us!

Thanks again everyone for your participation.

Chuck, KA5PVB

**THE BARK**  
**Newsletter of the BBARC**

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club  
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Alpine, Texas 79830

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**BIG BEND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

<http://www.bigbendarc.com>

Meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at the West Texas National Bank Building in Alpine, 7:30 P.M. CST/CDT.

ARRL Affiliated Club

**MEMBERSHIP AND NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION**

Annual membership is Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 each year. Dues are \$36.00 per year for individual or individual & spouse.

Membership allows you to participate in all club activities and vote at the monthly meetings.

Newsletters are available by e-mail for members, subscribers, and interested recipients. Send your e-mail address to [n5do at sbcglobal.net](mailto:n5do@sbcglobal.net) to be put on the list.

**ABOUT THE BBARC**

Founded December 17, 1974

ARRL affiliate since 1986

The BBARC is a 501(C)3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

**Big Bend Emergency Net, 3.922 MHz**

Founded September 18, 1977

Meets every Sunday morning at 8:30 A.M. CST/CDT

Controlled net format. Welcomes new participants and visitors.

Established by Bob Ward, WA5ROE.

Net Manager, Bob Ward, WA5ROE, [wa5roe at juno.com](mailto:wa5roe@juno.com)

**Big Bend 2-meter Net**

Founded July 9, 2008

Meets every Wednesday evening at 8:00 P.M. CST/CDT

Controlled net format. Welcomes new participants and visitors.

Established by Bob Ayer, KA1AAJ (SK)

Net Manager, Chuck Dobbins, KA5PVB,  
[charles.dobbins52 at yahoo.com](mailto:charles.dobbins52@yahoo.com)

**BBARC REPEATER SYSTEM**

**All standard offsets. All repeaters require 146.2 Hz PL tone encoded on your transmit signal. All repeaters are linked.**

147.120+	Shafter, Cibolo Creek
147.020+	Elephant Mt. south of Alpine. System hub
146.620-	Ft. Davis located at McDonald
Observatory	
146.720-	Alpine, Pearce Mountain
146.820-	Terlingua, Study Butte
146.920-	Glass Mountains, Alpine / Ft. Stockton
145.230-	Emergency Repeater

**BBARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

October 11, 2016 – Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m., West Texas National Bank

October 29 & 30, CQ World Wide DX Contest, SSB

November 8, 2016 – Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m. West Texas National Bank