



Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, K5FD

March, 2017

Alpine, Texas

147.02 Down, Use 448 MHz

The 147.02 repeater is down again and has been temporarily disabled. You can use 448 as an alternative.

Club to Hear KE5OG Talk on Propagation

Bill Brooks, KE5OG, will offer a program on propagation at the March 14 club meeting. Rather than a primer on propagation, Brooks will talk on how we are effected by propagation as we try to communicate.

The club meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. At the meeting room of the West Texas National Bank on Fifth Street.

Big Bend ARC invited to Texas Star Party

W5TSP and the Texas Star Party will host an open house for members of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club (BBARC) **Tuesday May 23rd from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at the ham shack. BBARC members wishing to attend must notify Club President Allen Moore, N5NYM, allen@allenmoore.com, to be placed on the attendance list so arrangements can be made for entry into TSP. Visitors will need to leave the ranch prior to the TSP Darkout. Call-in Freq: W5TSP repeater 442.8 pl 110.9 (coverage limited to near the Prude Ranch), BBARC 146.62 pl 146.2 and 146.52.

TSP Staff will meet you at the front gate and guide you to the Ham Shack. BBARC visitors will be invited to guest operate W5TSP using the FLEX 6700 and Maestro.

Texas Star Party Radio Shack



The Radio Shack is the source of TSP radio, weather data, internet, ham radio, and TSP communications

During TSP week, TSP hams operate a fixed station, **W5TSP (Whisky Five Texas Star Party)** at the Prude Ranch, site of the week-long Texas Star Party event. This station has a Mosley PRO-96 Yagi, 160 thru 20m Saturn dipole, 2-ele 30m Yagi, and various VHF/UHF antennas mounted to a Rohn 70' SSV tower installed by TSP staff. The station operates 160 meters through 70cm.

Due to other responsibilities of the TSP ham radio staff and the availability of attending hams, operation may be spotty. Remember, this is a star

party and the emphasis is staying up when it is dark to pursue the wonders of the night sky, and sleeping the morning away.

Mobile Operations

Amateur Radio Operators are invited to communicate with TSP Ham Radio Staff and other Hams traveling to and from the TSP. This will be informal operations among TSP staff amateurs. All hams traveling to attend TSP as well as all other Hams are *invited to participate*. While traveling, TSP Staff will be operating HF and VHF. HF mobile operating frequencies and (informal) schedule is:

- Most likely Mobile band -40 Meters: 7.215 (alt 7.218, 7.221, 7.224)
- If on 20 meters: 14.238 (alt 14.241, 14.244 and 14.247)
- If on 80 meters: 3.815 (alt 3.818, 3.821 and 3.824)
- Listen for TSP Staff: W5TSP, WB4GHY, K5WUL, K5NCH(SK), NG5V, W5CWO, W5SOG, N5BFB, WD5IKX, WA5TKU, N5EG, W5VMD and others

VHF operations will primarily be through:

1. The West Texas Connection (WTC) (<http://www.westtexasconnection.net/>)
2. The Southwest Lynx System (<http://southwest.lynxs.4t.com/custom2.html>)
3. Big Bend ARC (BBARC) System (http://www.bigbendarc.com/REPEATER_S/Repeater_Index.html)

(!! PLEASE read and observe operating guidelines for these linked systems !!)

W5TSP Special Events Station

Amateurs around the world are invited to monitor for **Special Events Station, W5TSP**. An astronomically-themed QSL card will be sent to

those that send an SASE to W5TSP (QSL via K5WUL 7724 Chalkstone Dr. Dallas, Texas 75248)

W5TSP will operate *near* the following frequencies:

- 40m 7.250
- 20m 14.255
- 15m 21.355
- 10m 28.455
- 6m 50.125

W5TSP will attempt to monitor the BBARC system and/or 146.52 MHz as much as possible. TSP attendees are encouraged to do the same.

Please visit the Radio Shack (see picture above) on the Prude Ranch located at the base of the antenna tower. Amateur Radio operators attending TSP are invited to guest operate W5TSP.

TSP Location data

Grid Square: DM80
County: Jeff Davis

Prude Ranch: A guest ranch in the Davis Mountains of West Texas

[Latitude: 30 36' 36" N](#)
[Longitude: 103 57' 05" W](#)
Ground Elevation: 5100'

Located about 5 miles west of Fort Davis, Texas
10 miles east of the University of Texas'
McDonald Observatory
175 miles SE of El Paso, Texas
140 miles SW of Midland and Odessa, Texas

Time Standard: Central Daylight Savings Time (CDST) (UTC -5)

Contact via w5tsp@texasstarparty.org (not always monitored) also via wb4ghy@arrl.net

**BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT
From WA5ROE**

Date	Net Control	Check-ins	Length	Remarks
02/26/17	W5NPR	42	35	
02/19/17	KE5OG	39	25	Add W5WOM, Bob, from Clint
02/12/17	WA5ROE	45	32	move KK5MV from Midland to Bedford N0RAB checked in from Yuma, AZ
02/05/17	WA5ROE	41	31	

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 or on EchoLink.

2 Meter Net Report

Our 2 meter net meeting EVERY Wednesday at 8:00 PM (local time) on the clubs repeater system network. These are good training ground for possible emergency situations, as well as helping the new hams in the area to have an easy way to get use to "talking on the radio".

The club website (www.bigbendarc.com) has ALL the information on the 2 meter net. Included is the Net Control members schedule, until year end, the "script" (supplied ONLY as a guide to ensure the important information is given out weekly - you can use it anyway you see fit) and a list of the recent check-in members.

If you have an interest in joining the Net Control stations please call me ([432/837-2257](tel:4328372257)) or holler at me during the Wednesday evening net (either before or after the net). The month of February had four (4) Wednesdays in it and it went this way:

Date	Net Control	Checkins
02/22/17	N5BBJ	17
02/15/17	KG5LMG	15
02/08/17	No net	Banquet
02/01/17	KA5PVB	20

54 total check-ins for February

During the month of February the net had check-ins from the following hams on our Echo-Link System:

W5RHN - Bob and K5FRN - Fran from San Antonio, TX.

W5JSR - Steve and KK5ROB - Robin from Phoenix, AZ.

K4AAA - Ron from Connor, NC. (near Raleigh, NC)

KD5KC - Mike in El Paso, TX.

W5MJF - Mike in Tyler, TX.

KG5DW - Don in Denton, TX.

N5DPG - David in Wimberly, TX. (N.E. of San Antonio, TX.)

*** it's always interesting where our Echo-Link check-in reside and how they came to find out about us out here!

Any of the new hams in the community, if you have questions or problems with trying to get radios and antennas set-up feel free to bring them up during the net. We May not have the answer right of the cuff, but somebody can find the info and get back with you shortly!

With fall season here now, everyone is busy, and if you don't have the time to check-in to the net and stick around for the round-table discussion, take a minute of your time and check-in as an "in-and-out" (where you're there for the head count but don't have the time to participate). All participation is much appreciated and encouraged.

73's and hope to talk to you soon.

Chuck Dobbins - KA5PVB

2-meter Net Manager

BBARC Club Officers

President - Allen Moore, N5MYM
Vice-President - Bill Brooks, KE5OG
Secretary - Billy Roberts, W5NPR
Treasurer - Angie Otoupol, N5MVV

**THE BARK
Newsletter of the BBARC**

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club
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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**

2017 Dues are due

Annual membership is Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 each year. Dues are \$36 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 [bill.ke5og at gmail.com](mailto:bill.ke5og@gmail.com) 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

March 7, Hospital Net, 2-meters. 8 p.m.

North American Sprint, RTTY, March 12, 000-0400

BARTG HF RTTY Contest, 0200 Z, March 18 – 0200 Z, March 20

CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB, 0000Z, Mar 25 to 2359Z, Mar 26

**ARRL Texas State Convention 2017 – March 24 & 25,
217, Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds, Rosenberg, Texas.**