



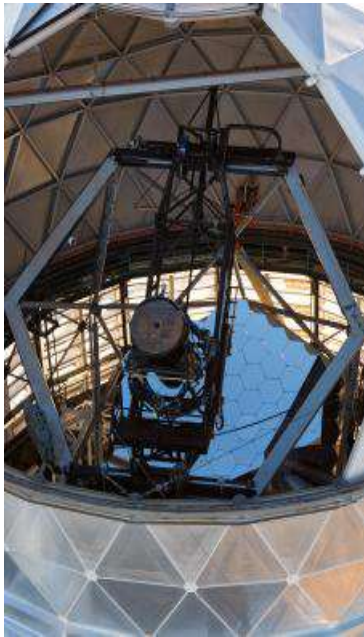
Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, K5FD August, 2019

Alpine, Texas

Fowler to Host Hobby-Eberly Tour

Jim Fowler, KD5KBU, will host a tour of the Hobby-Eberly Telescope at McDonald Observatory in Fort Davis, on Tuesday, August 13.

With its 11-meter (433-inch) mirror, the Hobby-Eberly Telescope (HET) is one of the world's largest optical telescopes. It was designed specifically for spectroscopy, the decoding of light from stars and galaxies to study their properties. This makes it ideal in searching for planets around other stars, studying distant galaxies, exploding stars, black holes and more.



The telescope is especially suited to conduct large survey projects using spectroscopy.

Members who would like to join the tour should meet in the HET parking lot at 7:30 p.m.

Fowler is a system engineer and a member of the Big Bend ARC.

Ex Parte Filings at FCC Challenge Digital Modes

A prominent Washington DC attorney, on behalf of New York University, and others, has filed a brief asking the the FCC to reconsider rulings that allow for “encoded” communications in the ham bands. Included are the Winlink System using Pactor 2, Pactor 3, Winmor, Ardop and Vara.

Winlink users argue that Winlink is not encoded but rather is “compressed.” The Ex Parte challenges that argument.

Others, like the CTDXCC club, also argue that the use of “robotic email systems” also violate the FCC rule for openness and transparency. Those email systems are generally in the CW and RTTY portions of the bands between 90 and 100 KHz above the bottom of the band.

The CTDXCC is expected to mount a challenge to the West Gulf Division leadership in the next election.

For more information see:

<https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/10724035705944/NYU%20Ex%20Parte%20Filing%20-%2007.24.19.pdf>

and

<https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/1071958608259/July%2018%2C%202019%20Ex%20Parte>

[%20Filing.pdf](#)

Cyclefest needs operators in September

The annual Cyclefest will take place in Jeff Davis County on 21 and 22 September. "I need quite a few operators, mostly on Saturday for the loop ride," said organizer Jim Fowler, KD5KBU.

There will be 5 water stops and a number of other areas that need to be covered. Let KD5KBU know if you can assist.

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of Meeting

July 9, 2019

The meeting was attended by 15 members and guests.

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Bill Smith K5WSA.

The minutes of the June 11, 2019 meeting were read and approved on a motion by Rusty KB5R and second by Stephen KE5WCP.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Angie N5MVV with an end of month balance for June as \$8413.17. Deposits of \$630.00 and \$200.00 were reported with expenses of \$85.46 to Big Bend Telephone for the months of April and May, \$35.16 for the month of June, \$220.94 for a battery box and \$32.00 for website fees. The report was approved on a motion by Chuck KA5PVB and second by Jim KD5KBU.

OLD BUSINESS:

It was reported that Field Day contacts for BBARC were approximately 500 less than last year due to operating conditions and antenna issues at the RV CW station. BBARC scored 6300 points with 796 from side band contacts and 888 from CW contacts. Bonus points also added to the score. Volunteers involved in the setup were praised and the need for more volunteer help in the future was noted.

A study on 2-meter frequencies was discussed with possible reallocation for ham frequencies. ARRL has indicated that no problems were foreseen and to not contact congressional representatives at this time.

Cost of new repeaters was discussed with a recommendation that repeaters purchases should be per-programmed.

NEW BUSINESS:

It was discussed that the August meeting would be tour of the McDonald Observatory telescope facilities.

The program was presented by Steve KX5SP on his recent medical mission trip to Honduras. He reported that Honduras is a beautiful but very poor country. The medical team visited a different village every day with patients sometimes walking many miles for treatment. He stated that all radios and supplies were brought in by the team, with antennas constructed on site and moved to each new location. He discussed a Texas CW station with an antenna farm that provided communication support for incoming and outgoing transmissions. The team spent approximately three weeks in the field.

Steve has been involved in more than 70 relief missions, mostly storm related events.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Roberts W5NPR
Secretary

FOR SALE

Approximately 65 feet of Rohn 25 including a Force 12 C3S Triband beam, a two element Mosley 40 meter beam, a three element Steppir and an 80-meter inverted V. Also included is an original Steppir controller, a Ham IV rotator with controller, assorted coax etc. You can see the

setup at 902 East Avenue A in Alpine. Tower and antennas are currently in the air but will be taken down at the seller's expense.

For additional information contact Bill, KE5OG.

**BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT
From WA5ROE**

Date	Net Control	Check-ins	Length	Remarks
07/07/19	WA5ROE	43	35	
07/14/19	W5NPR	39	35	
07/21/19	W5NPR	36	30	
07/28/19	W5NPR	39	35	W5DBF Clem SK, Poor Condx

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

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

Our club website (www.bigbendarc.com) has all the information about our 2 meter net. This includes the Net Control members schedule, the "script" (supplied only as a guide to insure that 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 as an operator, please call me (432/837-2257) or holler during the Wednesday Net. We could really use a couple of extra hands to be NCS! The script and "check-in

roster" are both posted on the club website for you to download and use as a NCS!

The month of July we had five Wednesday's, and it went this way:

Date	Check-ins	Net Control station
July 3	14	KF5KMA - Dan
July 10	17	KA5PVB - Chuck
July 17	22	KI5ANQ - Scott
July 24	19	KG5LMG - Marvin
July 31	17	KA5PVB - Chuck

*****Total of 89 check-ins for the month of July! *****

If you don't have the time to check-in to the net and participate in the round-table discussion, take a minute of your time and check-in as an "in-and-out" (you're in for the head count, but not participating in the actual net). ALL participation is appreciated and encouraged!

During the month of June we had check-ins from the following hams on the Echo-Link System as follows:

- W5RHN - Bob from Crystal Falls, MI. (summer home) (3 times)
- W5RHN - Bob from Owen Sound, Ontario
- K5FRN - Fran from Crystal Falls, MI (3 times)
- K5FRN - Fran from Owen Sound, Ontario
- KG5DW - Don was in Margate, FL. (near Fort Lauderdale)
- KG5HEJ - Al from Terlingua, TX.
- N5BBJ - Bruce from Clairmont, NC. (2 times)
- KD5KC - Mike from El Paso, TX
- K5RIC - Rick from No Hill Mesa, NM. (near Ruidoso) (2 times)

I would like to thank KG5HEJ - Al in Terlingua for keeping up apprased of the Echo-Link activity during our net times! VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!

I want to specifically thank our five (5) Net Control stations for all of their efforts on behalf of the club's 2 meter net for the entire year. It just wouldn't have happened if you were NOT there! Our Net Control Stations are:

KF5KMA - Dan, KG5LMG - Marvin, N5BBJ - Bruce, W5RHN - Bob, and KI5ANQ - Scott

When you see them, thank them for all their efforts for the 2 meter net!

73,

Chuck Dobbins - KA5PVB
2 meter Net Manager

BBARC Club Officers

President – Bill Smith, K5WSA
Vice-president - Stephen Cook, KE5WCP
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

2019 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.

Dues can be mailed to Bob Ward, WA5ROE at 1402 N. Fifth Street, Alpine, Texas 79830.

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 8:15 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_dobbins@yahoo.com

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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

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Big Bend ARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 13 – Big Bend ARC Club Meeting at 7:30, at the Hobby-Eberly Parking Area, McDonald Observatory, Fort Davis

