



Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, K5FD

September, 2019 Alpine, Texas

Stratton, Durham to Meet with Club Members

John Robert Stratton, N5AUS, Director of the West Gulf Division, will be the guest speaker at the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, Tuesday, September 10. Stratton, from Austin, is currently running for reelection.



Accompanying Stratton will be Dale Durham, W5WI, West Texas Section Manager from Buffalo Gap.

Stratton has a degree in Aerospace Engineering and a law degree from the University of Texas.

He has been a ham since 2006 and holds a General Class license. He was appointed to fill the unexpired term of the previous Director. He was a vice-director at the time.

Ballots will be mailed to ARRL members about October 1.

The West Gulf Division includes North, South and West Texas and Oklahoma.

Club members are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity by asking questions. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.. The public is invited.

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.

Texas QSO Party Next Weekend

The Texas QSO Party kicks off next weekend at 1400 UTC, Saturday, September 14. At this time not all 254 Texas counties are expected to be on the air during the event.

The "party" runs for 12 hours on Saturday and then again for six hours on Sunday. It includes CW and SSB and combinations of the two.

The event, which is a lot of fun, is open to mobiles as well as fixed stations. It is sponsored by the Texas DX Society.

For more information, as well as maps and a list of what counties will be on the air, you can go to www.txqp.net.

Efforts Continue to Enhance ARES Program, Add Resources

From ARRL

The ARRL Board of Directors, committees, and Headquarters administrative staff are continuing efforts to enhance the venerable Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) program. A major [ARES Plan](#) has been adopted, providing new direction going forward. In addition, a standardized training plan has been adopted and a new *ARES Emergency Communicator Individual Task Book* (attached below) approved and published.

At its July meeting, the ARRL Board considered the [report](#) of its Public Service Enhancement Working Group (PSEWG). A “change log” was proposed for the *Task Book* that will highlight changes made as the document is periodically revised and updated. ARES position guidelines were posted to the online *ARES Workbook* and a major revision and update of ARRL’s *Introduction to Emergency Communications* course — now designated as EC-001 — has been completed.

The course is now available at no cost to any ARES registrant, and a “tutor-less” format has been added as a parallel path for completing the course. Additional tutors were recruited to assist in handling the initial surge of interest. A “challenge” path directly to the final exam is also being implemented. An update and introduction of EC-016 — *Public Service and Emergency Communications Management for Radio Amateurs* — will follow in the next few months.

Veteran Ohio Section Manager Scott Yonally, N8SY, has been brought on board to assist in implementing *ARES Connect* and to field questions about the new software package from users. *ARES Connect* is a volunteer management system covering event signup, reporting, and roster management, to simplify managing volunteers and events.

Some modest revisions to procedures have been made to the [Ham Aid](#) program.

Most recently, the PSEWG has begun an extensive examination of the future role of the National Traffic System ([NTS](#)) in concert with ARES. It’s hoped that a brief survey of selected Section Managers, Section Traffic Managers, and Section Emergency Coordinators will provide a starting point for a more extensive analysis of the program.

At its July meeting, the ARRL Board authorized the EmComm Manager Selection Committee to specify the position requirements for a new Director of Emergency Management at Headquarters. This individual will lead the team responsible for supporting the ARES program and will work with ARRL staff to develop standards, protocols, and processes to support the Field Organization.

ARRL HF Band Planning Committee Reactivated to Address Spectrum Issues *From ARRL*

In an effort to more effectively address HF digital technology issues, ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, has reactivated the ARRL Board of Directors’ HF Band Planning Committee. The six-member panel, chaired by First Vice President Greg Widin, K0GW, will primarily focus on spectrum allocation issues that have gained increased visibility with discussions on accommodating automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS) — many employing [Winlink](#) email. The committee will also discuss operating frequencies for FT4, FT8, and other digital modes. Widin says the committee will meet next week to chart its course. Reactivation of the HF Band Planning Committee came out of discussions during the July 2019 ARRL Board meeting.

“ARRL is not trying to shut down digital communication or shut down Winlink in particular,” Widin said, adding that ARRL recognizes Winlink’s proven track record in emergency communication. His committee also will consider Winlink supporters’ calls for the expansion of the ACDS segments spelled out in §97.221(b) of the amateur rules.

“This is not an easy task by any means,” Widin allowed. “They’re not making more bandwidth.” He said this is especially a problem on 40 meters.

“We’re well aware that Winlink is the *de facto* standard supporting emergency communications in many parts of the country, but we have to figure out how it can operate with other modes, so that everybody can communicate,” Widin said, “without having one mode overrun any other mode.” The committee will not address data encryption questions at this point, however.

In response to ARRL’s 2013 petition to delete the so-called “symbol rate” limit and replace it with a maximum bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz below 29.7 MHz, the FCC [proposed](#) to eliminate symbol rate (baud rate) limitations for data transmissions but declined to propose a bandwidth limitation.

At its July meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors called for ARRL’s Washington Counsel to obtain FCC approval for several Part 97 rule changes. The Board asked for a rulemaking petition to remove the current 300 baud rate limitation; authorize all ACDS below 30 MHz, regardless of bandwidth, to operate only within the ACDS bands designated in §97.221(b); require digital stations operating with a bandwidth greater than 500 Hz to operate within the ACDS bands, whether or not automatically controlled, and limit the maximum bandwidth of digital signals below 29 MHz to 2.8 kHz.

ARRL-initiated mediation efforts for rival parties to reach consensus on all or some of the issues

raised in the “symbol rate” proceeding ended a few days prior to the July Board meeting. While those discussions were useful, no consensus among parties was reached for FCC consideration. Widin said some positions may have been too divergent to find viable middle ground.

“We still want to change the symbol rate limitation into a bandwidth limitation, which makes a lot more sense in terms of current and future modes,” Widin said. The panel also hopes to work with the WSJT-X Development Group to establish FT4 frequencies compatible with existing band plans.

Widin further suggested that his committee will have to look beyond the current landscape of HF digital modes into what might lie ahead.

144 – 146 MHz Removed from French Proposal for Additional Aeronautical Applications

From ARRL

The 144 – 146 MHz Amateur Radio segment has been removed from a French proposal to study spectrum additional for Aeronautical Mobile Service (AMS) applications. France had included the band, which comprises the entire 2 meter band in ITU Region 1, for consideration as a European Conference of Telecommunications and Postal Administrations (CEPT) position for World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC-19). Heading into a just-ended CEPT Conference Preparatory Group (CPG) meeting in Turkey this past week, France was holding firm on the proposal to have AMS share 144 – 146 MHz with Amateur Radio. The CPG meeting considered CEPT ECC positions on this and other issues for WRC-19.

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) had called the French proposal for 144 – 146 MHz “unsound” and contended that sharing of the current amateur allocation with AMS radio

systems would not be possible “without a significant likelihood of mutual interference.”

The French spectrum study proposal would have had to gain approval from at least 10 CEPT countries at the CPG meeting — with not more than 6 opposing — to appear on the agendas of WRC-19 and WRC-23, where a final decision would be made.

Also at the CEPT meeting, at the insistence of the European Commission, a WRC-23 agenda item was considered necessary to address world-wide protection of Regional Navigational Satellite Systems (RNSS) from amateur emissions in the 23 centimeter band, 1240 – 1300 MHz. Delegates agreed to a draft WRC Resolution that stresses the importance of the band to the Amateur Service and explicitly excludes the removal of existing allocations as part of the proposed agenda item. The issue stems from reported incidents of interference to the Galileo GPS E6 signal on 1278.750 MHz.

No change to an already agreed upon CEPT position on wireless power transmission (WRC Agenda item 9.1.6). This calls for no change in the *Radio Regulations* to address the question of operating frequency for wireless power transmission for electric vehicle charging (WPT-EV), but leaves open the question of spurious emissions from WPT-EV.

IARU Region 1 President Don Beattie, G3BJ, said that the IARU team at Ankara — the only representatives of the Amateur Service at the meeting — had presented clear and convincing arguments for Amateur Radio positions and that he was pleased that regulators had recognized the strength of the amateur case. He expressed his thanks to everyone who contributed to the outcome at CPG.

CEPT is one of the six regional telecommunications organizations but viewed as the most influential. The issues now move to

WRC-19 in Egypt this fall for final resolution. IARU will be represented at the international gathering, which gets under way in late October.
— *Thanks to IARU*

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of Meeting

August 10, 2019

The meeting was attended by 17 members and guests.

The meeting was a field trip to the Hobby Eberly Telescope on Fowlkes Mountain in Jeff Davis County, which is a part of the McDonald Observatory complex. Jim KD5KBU conducted the tour. He led those present through the dome which houses the 11-meter (433 inch) telescope, explaining the structure of the scope with its 91 mirrors. He demonstrated the method of rotation which runs on air inflated pads. The telescope weighs approximately 150 tons. The tour also included a visit to the operation rooms where the astronomer and telescope operators are on duty. A question and answer period followed the presentation.

The tour was well presented and much appreciated by those in attendance.

Respectively Submitted:

Bill Roberts W5NPR
Secretary

BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT
From WA5ROE

Date	Net Control	Check-ins	Length	Remarks
08/04/19	WA5ROE	32	35	Net Control from Brewster County EOC; High Noise Needing Relays
08/11/19	WA5ROE	38	40	
08/18/19	WA5ROE	41	35	
08/25/19	W5NPR	38	25	

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 (432/386-0756) 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 August we had four (4) Wednesday's, and it went this way:

Date	Check-ins	Net Control station
Aug 7	20	KF5KMA - Dan
Aug 14	20	KA5PVB - Chuck
Aug 21	17	KI5ANQ - Scott
Aug 28	15	KG5LMG - Marvin

*****Total of 72 check-ins for the month of August! *****

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 August we had check-ins from the following hams on the Echo-Link System as follows:

- W5RHN - Bob from Crystal Falls, MI. (summer home) (4 times)
- K5FRN - Fran from Crystal Falls, MI (4 times)
- KG5HEJ - Al from Terlingua, TX. (2 times)
- N5BBJ - Bruce from Hickory, NC. (1 time)
- " " San Antonio, TX. (1 time)
- KD5KC - Mike from El Paso, TX
- K5RIC - Rick from No Hill Mesa, NM. (near Ruidoso) (3 times)
- W5JSR - Steve from Phoenix, AZ. (where it's hot ALL the time) (2 times)
- KK5ROB - Robin from Phoenix, AZ. (see above) (2 times)
- KG5ZHT - Lonnie from Van Horn, TX.
- KM5OE - Lloyd from Houston, TX. (2 times)

I would like to thank KG5HEJ - Al in Terlingua for keeping up appraised 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
1402 N. 5th St.
Alpine, Texas 79830

Publisher: Bob Ward, WA5ROE
[wa5roe at juno.com](mailto:wa5roe@juno.com)
Editor: Bill Brooks, KE5OG
[bill.ke5og at gmail.com](mailto:bill.ke5og@gmail.com)

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

.....

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

.....

Big Bend ARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 10 – Big Bend ARC Club Meeting at 7:30, at the Community Room, West Texas National Bank. John Robert Stratton, N5AUS, Director, West Gulf Division and Dale Durham, W5WI, West Texas Section Manager.

Texas QSO Party: 1400Z, Sep 14 to 0200Z, Sep 15 and 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 15

North American Sprint, RTTY: 0000Z-0400Z, Sep 15

