THE BARK

Merry Christmas and *HappyNew Year*

Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, K5FD
December, 2019   Alpine, Texas

K5WSA Must Withdraw from President's Position

Bill Smith, K5WSA, has had to withdraw as a candidate for President of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club. Bill was informed this past week that is has a "tumor on his esophagus." He will have to undergo chemo and radiation treatments.

"I have always been a fighter,"said Bill. "It's been fun as President. After I beat this problem, I can always return and run for President again."

Stephen Cook, KE5WCP, is the vice-president and will run for president. In accordance with the club's by-laws a nominating committee should recommend nominee's but that will not occur this year. We will accept nominations from the floor as well as Cook's nomination. Billy Roberts, W5NPR, is currently Secretary and Angie Otoupol, N5MVV, is Treasurer.

After the election of officers and other business, the club will hold a silent auction donated by members. Items will include equipment, books, baked goods and other items.

The Big Bend Amateur Radio Club will meet this coming Tuesday, December 10, at 7:30 pm at the Community Room of West Texas National Bank in downtown Alpine.

The public is invited.

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of Meeting
November 12, 2019

The meeting was attended by 14 members and guests.

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

The minutes of the October 8, 2019 were read and approved on a motion by KB5R and second by K5WSA.

In the absence of Angie N5MVV, the Treasurer's Report was not presented but Bob WA5ROE reported that a $300.00 donation from True Value was deposited during the month.

The foot race from Dagger Flat to Rio Grande Village was discussed. There were 14 runners entered and no medical problems were reported. There were 5-6 radio volunteer operators and communications worked well using the Christmas Mountains 146.82 repeater.

It was reported that ECHOLINK had been moved to True Value but not yet up and running.

It was announced that the December meeting would feature the annual silent auction of radio equipment, books, baked goods and surplus items donated.

Rob KE5KNQ discussed the annual Santa Net to be sponsored by BBARC in December. Rob suggested December 5th from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The date and time were approved on a motion by Bill K5WSA and second by Rusty KB5R.

The program was presented by Stephen KE5WCP on electricity, grounding and trouble shooting electrical problems. A question and answer period followed the presentation.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Roberts W5NPR
Secretary

Santa Net Draws Kids

Club members turned out for a two-hour visit via 2-meters for are youngsters. Approximately 15 kids participated.

Kids had a chance to hear Santa on the radio and express what they were wishing for this year.

Rob, KE5KNU, was the Chief Elf, as he has been for many years. Also assisting were Dean, WA5MHO, Billy, W5NPR, and Bob,WA5ROE.

The event took place using the club's emergency communications van parked in front of the Morrison's True Value Hardware Store on Thursday evening.

New General Availability Release of WSJT-X Announced

The WSJT Development Group has announced the release of *WSJT-X* version 2.1.1. This is the free software suite that includes the FT4 and FT8 protocols. "*WSJT-X* 2.1.1 is a bug-fix release that addresses regressions in version 2.1.0," the announcement said. "The new version executes properly on Macintosh machines running macOS 10.15 (Catalina)."

The **Release Notes** detail program changes made since *WSJT-X* 2.1.0. The *WSJT-X* 2.1 *User Guide* has also been updated. Upgrading from earlier versions of *WSJT-X* should be seamless, with no need to uninstall previous versions or move any files. **Links** to installation packages for Windows, Linux, and Macintosh are available.

WSJT-X is licensed under the terms of Version 3 of the GNU General Public License (GPL). Development of this software is a cooperative project to which many amateur radio operators have contributed. The WSJT Development Group asks those using the code to let the developers know, as well as to report bugs or suggest improvements to the code.

Kennedy Space Center Testing Improved Wind Profiler, Seeks Assistance from Hams

NASA Kennedy Space Center (KSC) will be testing an improved waveform on the 48-MHz Tropospheric Doppler Radar Wind Profiler (TDRWP) from Monday, November 25 through Sunday, December 2. The purpose of the test is to improve the instrument's resolution and still operate within the assigned bandwidth.

The TDRWP is used to assess and evaluate upper-level winds for launches from KSC and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. NASA is requesting

the amateur radio community to **report** any detected emissions in the 50 – 54 MHz band during that period. Include the date, time, location, frequency, and any other pertinent information (such as IQ files of the signal for evaluation) that might assist NASA in assessing potential impacts to the amateur radio community.

ARRL Self-Guided Emergency Communication Course EC-001-S is Now Available On Demand
From ARRL

ARRL's EC-001-S online "Introduction to Emergency Communication" course is now available to students in an on-demand format, allowing students to register for the course and begin work at any time. This course is designed to provide basic knowledge and tools for any emergency communications volunteer.

In response to the great course demand and to expand access to EC-001, ARRL developed a self-guided version of the course, EC-001-S, which launched in June. This version of the course is designed for those who prefer to work independently and who do not need guidance from an online mentor. EC-001-S was previously offered only during specific sessions along with the traditional mentored version. The course opened for general enrollment on November 6.

Visit the ARRL Online Course Registration page for more information and to register.

****

BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT From WA5ROE

Date	Net Control	Check-ins	Length	Remarks
11/03/19	W5NPR	36	37	
11/10/19	WA5ROE	37	36	
11/17/19	W5NPR	35	30	Includes 3 EchoLink checkins that were unable to connect
11/24/19	WA5ROE	38	331	

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 November we had four (4) Wednesday's, and it went this way:

Date	Check-ins	Net Control station
Nov. 6	26	KI5ANQ - Scott
Nov. 13	15	KG5LMG - Marvin
Nov. 20	17	N5BBJ - Bruce
Nov. 27	unreported	W5RHN - Bob

******Total of 58+ check-ins for the month of November! ********

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:

KG5HEJ - Al from Terlingua, TX.
K1SP - Matt from Washington, DC. (at Border Patrol School)
K5RIC - Rick from No Hill Mesa, NM. (near Ruidoso)
W5JSR - Steve and KK5ROB - Robin from Peoria, AZ.
note - Echo-Link system is undergoing changes of antenna locations and will be in-operable for an unknown period of time!

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
Editor:	Bill Brooks, KE5OG
	bill.ke5og at 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

We wish you all the best this Holiday Season

⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿

MEMBERSHIP AND NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

2020 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 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

⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿⦿

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

December 10 – Big Bend ARC Club Meeting at 7:30, at the Community Room, West Texas National Bank.