



Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club K5FD

May 2020.....Alpine, Texas

BBARC Calendar

May 14.....BBARC Monthly Club Meeting
7:30pm West Texas National Bank
June 27-28 ...Field Day

BBARC Minutes of Meeting

April 14, 2020

The meeting was attended by 19 members and guests.

W5NPR.....Bill.....Alpine
WA5ROE.....Bob.....Alpine
KA5PVB.....Chuck.....Alpine
N5JOE.....Jim.....Alpine
KF5KMA.....Danny.....Alpine
AI4BA.....David.....Alpine
KX5SP.....Steve.....Alpine
KM4TYV.....Sheryl.....Alpine
WA5POK.....Mike.....Alpine
KE5KNQ.....Rob.....Alpine
KI5EXF.....Sharon.....Alpine
KE5WCP.....Stephen.....Fort Davis
KG5ZIC.....Pamela.....Fort Davis
N5MVV.....Angie.....Fort Davis
N5HYD.....Doug.....Fort Davis
K5WSA.....Bill.....Fort Davis
KG5ZIB.....Judi.....Fort Davis
KG5LMG.....Marvin.....Fort Davis
KI5ANQ.....Scott.....Terlingua

Due to the Covid19 virus, the meeting was conducted on 2-meters utilizing the BBARC 2-meter repeater system.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Stephen KE5WCP. It was agreed that all items of business

would be approved by mutual agreement.

The minutes of the March 10, 2020 meeting were read and approved.

Angie N5MVV presented the Treasurer's Report. Angie discussed her reluctance to discuss financial information on the air, but the financial report would be emailed to the secretary and be made a part of the written minutes. Her report indicated an end of month balance of \$10939.34. Deposits since late January included dues-\$434.00; Donations-\$1008.00 and memorials-\$2440.00. Expenses included Big Bend Telephone-\$141.20; Insurance-\$1097.00; Doug Otoupal-\$514.24 and Pafoofnik Enterprises-\$300.00. The treasurer's report was approved.

Old Business

It was reported that Doug N5HYD had requested information on spare repeaters, but none had been purchased. It was also discussed that all BBARC repeaters should be registered as K5FD and that the call of KE5OG would be memorialized in another way, to be determined at a later date.

It was discussed that Ultrarun and the Livermore hike had been cancelled due to Covid19.

The annual BBARC dinner originally scheduled for April 24th has been postponed indefinitely.

New Business

Bob WA5ROE reported that silent key information on Bill KE5OG had not been submitted for publication in QSL Magazine.

Scott KI5ANQ reported that the 146.82 Christmas Mountain repeater had locked up during the previous week's Wednesday night 2-meter net.

The 2020 status of Field Day was discussed. Chuck KA5PVB discussed the possible necessity of changes to this year's Field

Day. Covid19 conditions could eliminate large group gatherings like BBARC's usual Field Day activities. The activities could be limited to individuals operating from home on emergency power or family gatherings operating portable stations on temporary antennas. Clubs should be alert to additional Field Day information and state social distancing requirements as the time draws nearer.

Bob WA5ROE reported on ARES nets on Monday nights at 7:30 on 3873 MHz, following the NTS net from 6:30 to 7:30 on the same frequency. He stated that the three Texas sections are called, first North Texas, then West Texas and finally South Texas. Also RACES nets are scheduled on 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2:00 PM on 7255 MHz.

It was reported that the ECHO LINK antenna tower would remain at True Value, but with an additional tower section installed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectively Submitted
 Bill Roberts
 W5NPR

Big Bend Emergency Net Report

May 1 from WA5ROE

Date	Net Control Station	Check Ins	Length (min)	Remarks
4-5	WA5ROE	55	55	
4-12	WA5ROE	53	58	
4-19	WA5ROE	46	38	
4-26	WA5ROE	46	38	

Remember – the BBEN meets every Sunday on 3.922 MHz 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 MHz or on the BBARC repeater system or on EchoLink.

2 Meter report for March AND April, 2020

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 months of March and April we had nine (9) Wednesday's, and it went this way:

Date	Net Control Station	# Check-Ins	Remarks
3-4	KF5KMA	9	repeaters had low voltage
3-11	N5BBJ	11	
3-18	KG5LMG	12	
3-25	W5RHN	15	
4-1	KG5LMG	14	
4-8	N5BBJ	19	
4-15	W5RHN	23	
4-22	KF5KMA	14	
4-29	KA5PVB	17	

Totals:

March.....47

April.....87

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!

Echo-Link System is still non-functional until the antenna for the system gets remounted (probably at Tru-Value Hardware Store).

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!

We hope everyone is staying safe in 2020!

73,

Chuck Dobbins - KA5PVB

2 meter Net Manager

Emergency Nets

Mondays7:30pm.....ARES section 3.873 MHz

Sundays.....8:15amBBEN 3.922MHz

Sundays.....2:00pm.....RACES state district 8 7.255MHz
 2nd and 4th Sundays, listen only

Club Officers

PresidentStephen Cook.....KE5WCP
Vice-president.....Scott McClanahanKI5ANQ
Secretary.....Billy RobertsW5NPR
Treasurer.....Angie OtoupolN5MVV

Club Information

BBARC is an ARRL affiliated club.

Founded December 17, 1974

ARRL affiliate since 1986

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

Monthly meetings are the second Tuesday of each month unless a special meeting or event.

Meeting location is the West Texas National Bank Building in the center of Alpine at the intersection of state highway 118 and US highway 67. Parking is on the north side of the building. Enter the north side to The Community Room.

Meeting time is 7:30pm CST/CDT.

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 BBARC mailing address below.

Club Mailing Address

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club
1402 N. 5th St.
Alpine, Texas 79830

Club Web Site

www.bigbendarc.com

The BBARC web site contains reference information about the club and reports. In the upper right is the main menu with the following links.

Newsletters contains links to PDF files of the current and past newsletters.

Repeaters has the reference information and coverage map of our 2m repeater system.

Nets has information and reports about our Big Bend 2m Net and Big Bend Emergency Net.

Licensing has contact information for training and testing, and the schedule of upcoming classes and exam sessions sponsored by the BBARC.

About Us provides the officer list, dues information, meeting map and time, and mailing address.

On the right side is the **Posts by Category** drop down menu. Exploring the links from the **Posts by Category** menu is fascinating and contains most of the content of the BBARC website.

The Bark Newsletter

Published monthly on the first of the month.

Newsletters are available by e-mail for members, subscribers, and interested recipients. To be added to the distribution list, submitting content, making comments, adding event for the calendar, submitting new, send to ki5anq@outlook.com.

EditorScott McClanahanKI5ANQ

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 and managed by Bob Ward WA5ROE. Contact Bob at wa5roe@juno.com.

Emergency Net MgrBob WardWA5ROE

Big Bend 2-meter Net on Repeater System

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)

Field Day 2020

Saturday June 27 1800 UTC to

Sunday June 28 1759 UTC

Our club's call sign is Kilo 5 Field Day and we have a great tradition.

NVIS Antenna Contact Request

Max Barnett N5ODA wants to make contact at the edge of NVIS range. He lives in Columbus TX west of Houston. His son has land in the Big Bend, and he wants to try contacts with amateur radio operators in our area to see if NVIS contact with his son is possible. Mailing address is available upon request, and here is Max's email address:

maxxb@sbcglobal.net

BBRC Repeater System

The BBARC operates six 2m repeaters, all connected via the hub 147.020. Contact with one repeater transmits from all repeaters. The frequencies are 100 kHz apart on the 2's: 146.62, .72, .82, .92, 147.02, and .12.

All repeaters use standard offsets on your radio for transmissions (negative below 147 and positive above 147. The following frequencies are for receiving (listening) with the offset your transmission frequency.

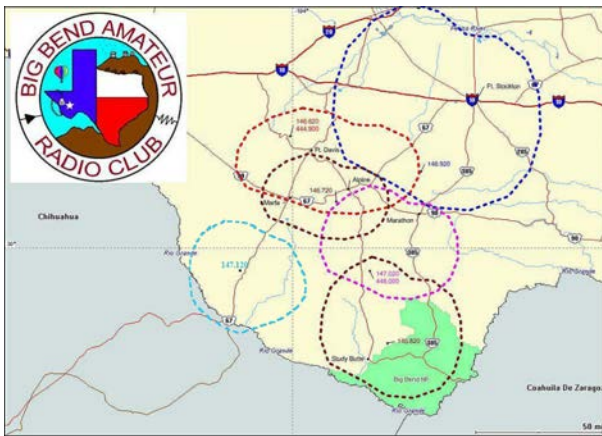
145.230-.....Emergency Repeater (currently off and stored)

146.620-.....Located at McDonald Observatory, covers Davis Mtns Resort, Fort Davis, Davis Mtn State Park, Davis Mtns, Prude Dude Ranch

- 146.720-.....Located on Pearce Mtn, covers Alpine, US 67 (frequency is “6.7”) East/North, and south to Mile High Road
- 146.820-.....Located on Christmas Mtn, covers Terlingua, Study Butte, South County Road, Terlingua Ranch, northern half of Big Bend National Park
- 146.920-.....Located on the Glass Mountains, covers US 67 north, Alpine, Fort Stockton, I10 from east-bound picnic area 20 miles of town to US 67 exit, and up to Odessa.
- 147.120+Covers Presidio, Shafter, Cibolo Creek
- 147.020+Located on Elephant Mtn, covers TX 118 South of Mile High Road, O2 Flats (the “O2” frequency), Terlingua Ranch, System Hub

All repeaters require a 146.2 Hz PL tone encoded on your transmit signal (CTCSS). Standard offset is the other setting. There is a 3 minute timeout built into the repeaters.

The repeaters cover remote areas and should be monitored for emergency calls. 146.520 is the simplex call frequency and the Wilderness Protocol frequency for this area.



ARRL News

More publications coming out of ARRL connect to an increasingly fragmenting HAM radio community. QST magazine now has a companion, On The Air, for new HAMs. There is also QEX and the National Contest Journal. Podcasts including Eclectic Tech and On the Air, plus the weekly ARRL Audio News.

The new May QST magazine tests an 11-ounce Icom HT, reviews K1EL Systems Morse Tutor Kit. They make some of the best kits for CW. There is an article on SKYWARN on page 67.

Remote Licensing Exam Sessions

The FCC has clarified that nothing in its rules prohibits remote amateur radio testing, and no prior approval is needed to conduct remote exam sessions.

“The Commission provides flexibility to volunteer examiners and coordinators who wish to develop remote testing methods or to increase remote testing programs already in place,” the FCC said in an April 30 news release. “We recognize that some volunteer examiner coordinators may not have the immediate capacity for widespread remote testing. We expect

those volunteer examiner coordinators with limited remote testing capacity to work closely with those requesting such testing to prioritize any available remote testing slots.”

ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said. “Many of our VEs and VE Teams have been employing remotely proctored exam sessions with both video and in-person components, and following social-distancing protocols, where necessary” she said. “Some ARRL VE teams have shown great promise in administering exams remotely.” Somma also said that as states begin to lift restrictions, the possibility exists to restart in-person amateur radio exam opportunities.

From the Editor

HAM radio offers many areas to learn, such as electronics, soldering, antennas, and DC power. Now it has lead me to TDEM, the emergency management organization in Texas. The San Antonio newspaper has daily statistics on the COVID-19 virus, and I mentioned to WA5ROE about Brewster County turning a shade of red on the newspaper’s map. That shading goes from 1 to 5000 cases. Brewster County has one active case. On closer inspection, the newspaper data is cumulative numbers, very different than active cases tracked by the TDEM.

Our club meeting April 14 is a club first for conducting an official meeting over the 2m repeater system. The COVID-19 virus restrictions prevented meeting at the bank. We made a bit of club history, and for the 19 that participated, they will be known as the COVID-19. At least until next month.

The May QST magazine has several build projects, and better LCD displays are showing up. Two I have been working with are Xenarc, which is daylight visible, and 4D Systems from Australia. Most are touchscreens now.

SparkFun has been a wealth of electronics build products and information including hookup tutorials. Cobbling boards together as a prototype and using I2C busses for sensors and hardware is leading to many possibilities of using single board computers (SBC) and microcontrollers. The PhaseDock from the April QST is a nice workbench for doing the prototyping. Some of the interesting SparkFun boards include a logger with microSD chip for a black box on any project. Another is GPS with IMU for dead recognizing. Another taps the CAN-bus through the OBDII port of any vehicle to create custom gauges and displays, especially with the new LCDs. Then I searched radios and found software defined radios (SDR) for HAMS. HF now has the option of putting the SDRs and SBCs up with the antennas and just having an Ethernet cable run down the tower to the shack.

Technician Exam Question #351

How do you pronounce BBARC?

- a) Bubba ark
- b) Bark
- c) Bee bark
- d) Double bee are see

Answer: dah-dit-dah-dit