



# Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club K5FD

July 2020

Alpine, Texas

## Field Day 2020



### Fun Times at The Double Diamond Again

A window between the COVID-19 outbreak and resurgence allowed club members to meet at the Double Diamond Club House for a traditional Field Day. The attendance was much smaller this year, but still featured food, operating around the clock, and two stations - 20 meters and 80/40 meters. Here are the preliminary results (contacts not points) from Bob WA5ROE:

The K5FD 1A station at the Double Diamond had 1,472 contacts.

Rusty KB5R operating 1E from his QTH had 386 contacts.

Chuck KA5PVB operating 1D from his QTH had 54 contacts on 6 meter.

The scores from Rusty and Chuck will be added to the K5FD score. Dave, N5DO has sent in the K5FD info to the ARRL. The scores and total contacts will be published in the December QST.

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## BBARC Calendar

July 14 .....BBARC Monthly Club Meeting  
2 meter repeater system

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## BBARC Minutes of Meeting

*June 9, 2020*

The meeting was attended by 22 members and guests.

W5NPR.....Bill.....Alpine  
WA5ROE.....Bob.....Alpine  
KB5R.....Rusty.....Alpine  
KI5EXF.....Sharon.....Alpine  
KF5KMA.....Danny.....Alpine  
KE5KNQ.....Rob.....Alpine  
WA5MHO.....Dean.....Alpine  
N5JOE.....Jim.....Alpine  
KG5HEJ.....Al.....Alpine  
KG5ZIB.....Judy.....Fort Davis  
K5WSA.....Bill.....Fort Davis  
KE5WCP.....Stephen.....Fort Davis  
KG5ZIC.....Pamela.....Fort Davis  
KG5LMG.....Marvin.....Fort Davis  
N5HYD.....Doug.....Fort Davis  
KG5LMK.....Mike.....Fort Davis  
KI5ANQ.....Scott.....Terlingua  
WA3LCO.....Floyd.....Erie PA  
WC5WFH  
KC5NOX.....Gary.....Sweetwater  
KI5JIZ.....Derrick.....Roundrock  
N5CFB.....John.....Buda

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 May 12, 2020 meeting were read and approved.

No Financial Report was presented due to a reluctance to discuss financial matters on the air.

It was discussed that the usual meeting location at the West Texas National Bank in Alpine was still unavailable because of Covid-19 conditions.

It was reported ECHO-LINK had been moved to Scott's KI5ANQ residence, which has a line-of-sight path to the Elephant Mountain Hub. ECHO-LINK is up and running.

Bob WA5ROE reported on Field Day plans. The event will be held at the usual Double Diamond location, but due to Covid-19 conditions it will be scaled down. BBARC will operate as a 1A station, rather than the 2A as in the past. The BBARC RV will be setup with a G5RV antenna and will be used as both CW and Voice operations. The individual operating that station will choose the mode of preference. In addition, operators may choose to operate from home or other remote locations in the class of their choice and designate those contacts as BBARC for club scoring purposes

Meals will served, but possibly scaled down from previous years. Meals served will be Friday-supper, Saturday-breakfast, noon and supper and Sunday-breakfast and leftovers at noon.

Those planning to eat all meals need to pay Bob WA5ROE \$30.00 or \$10.00 for one meal. Participants are also asked to provide a 12-pack of the drinks of their choice.

Also discussed was an email from John Dyer AE5B, previous Section Manager. John and his wife Karla K5LRA, will sponsor the West Texas Field Award for WTX affiliated clubs. The award will go to the club with the most contacts, including those contacts from the Field Day location and from individual operators adding contacts to the club's aggregate score. A plaque will be awarded to the winning club.

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## Big Bend Emergency Net Report

*July 1 from WA5ROE*

Date	Net Control Station	Check Ins	Length (min)	Remarks
6-7	WA5ROE	39	42	
6-14	WA5ROE	44	45	thanks to Bill W5NPR for relays
6-21	WA5ROE	41	35	
6-28	W5NPR	43	35	QTH Field Day, thanks to relaying stations and Bill W5ATO for 2m check ins

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.

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## Emergency Nets

Mondays .....7:30pm.....ARES section 3873 kHz

Sundays.....8:15am.....BBEN 3922kHz

Sundays.....2:00pm.....RACES state district 8 7255 kHz  
2nd and 4th Sundays, listen only

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## 2 Meter report for June, 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 month of June had four (4) Wednesday's, and it went this way:

Date	Net Control Station	# Check-Ins	Remarks
6-3	KA5PVB	18	Chuck net ctl
6-10	KI5ANQ	20	Scott net ctl
6-17	KG5LMG	15	Marvin net ctl
6-24	KG5LMG	17	Marvin net ctl (fillin for N5BBJ Bruce)

monthly total.....70

### EchoLink Check-Ins for the Month

Our EchoLink is operating again, so check in from wherever your travels take you! This month, we had EchoLink check-ins from the following operators:

W5JSR.....Steve .....Phoenix  
 KK5ROB .....Robin .....Phoenix  
 KG5GBO .....John.....Baton Rouge  
 KG5HEJ .....Al.....Terlingua  
 W5RHN.....Bob .....Des Moines IA  
 K5FRN .....Fran.....Des Moines IA  
 KF5RDN.....Julianne.....AZ  
 N5BBJ .....Bruce.....Houston

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!

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  
 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

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## Field Day at The Double Diamond



### Raising the Mast

Bob WA5ROE directs the raising of the mast for the club RV. "After we practice putting the mast up, then we'll put the feed line on." (seen in center foreground) Like the flag raising on Iwo Jima, except the photographer was present for the first raising.



### 20 Meter Antenna

Steve's special trailer features a telescoping mast raised by compressed air.

## Club Officers

President .....Stephen Cook.....KE5WCP  
Vice-president.....Scott McClanahan .....KI5ANQ  
Secretary.....Billy Roberts .....W5NPR  
Treasurer.....Angie Otoupol .....N5MVV

## 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

## [www.bigbendarc.com](http://www.bigbendarc.com)

The BBARC web site contains news, events, reference information, club meeting accepted minutes, Big Bend Emergency Network reports and rosters, 2m Net reports and controller schedule, and newsletters.

The main menu has 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 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 are the Posts. The most recent are listed first, then 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, submit content, make comments, or add events, send an email to the editor.

Editor .....Scott McClanahan .....KI5ANQ  
.....ki5anq@outlook.com

## Big Bend Emergency Net 3922 kHz

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.

Emergency Net Mgr .....Bob Ward .....WA5ROE  
.....wa5roe@juno.com.

## 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)  
2m Net Manager .....Chuck Dobbins ...KA5PVB

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## 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

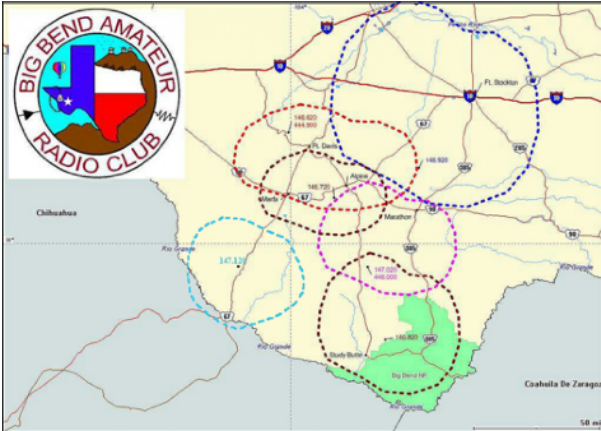
147.020+.....Located on Elephant Mtn, covers TX 118 South of Mile High Road, O2 Flats (the "O2" frequency), Terlingua Ranch, System Hub

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.



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## Field Day at The Double Diamond



### *20 Meter Feed Line*

Jim KD5KBU, Bill W5NPR, and Steve KI5YG prepare the telescoping mast on Steve's trailer.

Bob WA5ROE organized the Double Diamond weekend with food, two operating stations, and a small group of family, club members, and traditional guests. The weather cooperated with thunderstorms in the area Saturday afternoon.

Steve KI5YG operated on 20 meters from his custom radio trailer. The telescoping antenna uses compressed air to raise and lower the mast. Free of gearing and cables, the antenna can be rotated by hand, using a special device, and with arms and legs straining, move a small amount. With the antenna up, feed lines connections tested, power supply on, radio connected, and computer in place, the real work

began making contacts.

The club RV ran 80 and 40 meters on an inverted V dipole. The mast secures to the RV, and inside is an Elecraft working CW or SSB. Various operators signed up for time slots, operating 24 hours straight.

Inside the club house was most of the socializing and all of the eating. No radios operated out of the clubhouse this year.

We have one new licensee in the BBARC family. Rachel KI5JTB, daughter of Bob WA5ROE, received her call sign just a few days after Field Day. Rachel attended Field Day at the Double Diamond, and she watched setting up antennas, CW, HF, and SSB operation, and use of the contact logging software. We'll be looking for the funny antenna on her car, what Bill K5WSA says is the true sign of a HAM.

Many thanks to Sharon McClanahan for the Field Day pictures.

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## From the Editor

Our club has adapted well to the COVID-19 crisis, continuing normal operations of its Big Bend Emergency Net, 2 meter Net, repeater and EchoLink maintenance, meetings on the air, and even a Field Day on location. The close ties of many club members to ARES, RACES, TX DEM, emergency nets, and local fire departments have provided factual information about active cases in our communities. The club purpose is stronger and is not fading away because of the virus restrictions or distractions. There is a rumor some of the stimulus checks went toward new radio equipment and operating on new bands.

Hope everyone is staying safe in this second wave of cases. Brewster County is especially hit hard since Field Day. The July meeting will likely be on the 2m repeater system again.

The club EchoLink work continues. One book that really helped me is "VOIP" by Jonathan Taylor K1RFD. Jonathan is the creator of EchoLink, but he covers other VOIP for radio systems to explain different ways of using VOIP.

The next generation BBARC EchoLink server, an Intel NUC, is being prepared to swap out the old laptop running EchoLink now. The big changes will be a direct Ethernet connection to 100 Mbps Internet (running through WiFi now), a standalone Windows computer stripped of all unnecessary software (I've always wanted to do this), no more Internet packet buffering (designed for slow connections), audio from the radio and EchoLink connections (utilizing the software "mixer"), and the ability to operate on the server (at least the book promises this feat of magic).

73,

Scott KI5ANQ