



# Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club K5FD

October 2020

Alpine, Texas

**October 13 BBARC Monthly Meeting**  
**2m repeater system**  
**7:30 pm (7:00 early checkin)**

### BBARC Minutes of Meeting

*September 8, 2020*

The meeting was attended by 17 members and guests.

- W5NPR.....Bill.....Alpine
- WA5ROE.....Bob.....Alpine
- KA5PVB.....Chuck.....Alpine
- KB5R.....Rusty.....Alpine
- KI5EXF.....Sharon.....Alpine
- WA5MHO.....Dean.....Alpine
- .....Venus.....Alpine
- KG5ZIC.....Pamela.....Fort Davis
- KE5WCP.....Stephen.....Fort Davis
- N5HYD.....Doug.....Fort Davis
- N5MVV.....Angie.....Fort Davis
- K4AAA.....Ron.....Fort Davis
- KI5ANQ.....Scott.....Terlingua
- WA5POK.....Mike.....Oak Ridge TN
- KM4TYV.....Cheryl.....Oak Ridge TN
- .....Jim.....Garland

Due to the Covid-19 virus, the meeting was hosted in the backyard of Bob WA5ROE and Lucy, including hot dogs and desserts

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Stephen KE5WCP.

The minutes of the August 11, 2020 meeting were read and approved on a motion by Rusty KB5R and second by Chuck KA5PVB.

Angie N5MVV reported a current balance of \$9957.00.

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

Doug N5HYD reported repeater problems including a buzzing sound heard by users on the 146.82 repeater and the need for new batteries. He further discussed the difficulties in reaching the 146.82 location and the carrying of batteries to the repeater location from the parking location.

Scott KI5ANQ reported continued efforts on his part to upgrade the EchoLink system. He discussed the eventual logging of EchoLink users as an intended upgrade.

It was discussed it was unlikely that the meeting room at the West Texas National Bank would reopen any time soon and the October meeting would probably be on 2-meters. Should there be any changes, an announcement would be forthcoming.

Appreciation was extended to Bob and Lucy for hosting the meeting, backyard meal and social. It was an enjoyable evening and a welcomed opportunity to meet face to face after several months of meetings on 2-meters.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectively Submitted,  
Bill Roberts W5NPR

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## 2 Meter Net Report

### August and September, 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](http://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 (432/386-8052) 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 August and September we had nine (9) Wednesday's, and it went this way:

Date.....	Check-ins .....	Net Control Station	
Aug 5 .....	15 .....	KF5KMA .....	Dan
Aug 12 .....	20 .....	KA5PVB .....	Chuck
Aug 19 .....	14 .....	KI5ANQ .....	Scott
Aug 26 .....	16 .....	KG5LMG .....	Marvin
Sept 2 .....	21 .....	KG5LMG .....	Marvin filling in for N5BBJ
Sept 9 .....	18 .....	KF5KMA .....	Dan
Sept 16 .....	19 .....	KA5PVB .....	Chuck
Sept 23 .....	16 .....	KI5ANQ .....	Scott
Sept 30 .....	19 .....	KG5LMG .....	Marvin
August total: 65			
September total: 93			

Total of 158 check-ins for both August and September!

A HEARTY THANKS TO ALL FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN SUPPORT OF OUR NET ACTIVITIES!!!!!!!!!!!!

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!

EchoLink System check-ins are as follows:

August

W5RHN - Bob and K5FRN - Fran 3 times each from Crystal Falls, MI.

KG5HEJ - Al from Terlingua 3 times (He is also our Echo-Link Monitor during the net, THANKS A BUNCH)!

KI5JTB - Rachel from San Marcos, TX. 4 times.

N5BBJ - Bruce from Channelview, TX (near Houston).

KF5WBE - Greg from 20 miles South of Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota.

KI5EXF - Sharon from Buda, TX (South of Austin) cleaning out old home prior to completely moving to Alpine!

KG5GBO - John from Baton Rouge, LA.

September

W5JSR - Steve and KK5ROB - Robin 3 times from Peoria, AZ. (near Phoenix).

KG5GBO - John from Baton Rouge, LA.

KF5WBE - Gary still near the T.R.N.P. in North Dakota (as noted above).

KG5HEJ - Al from Terlingua 3 times and still monitoring the Echo-Link system for us!

W5RHN - Bob and K5FRN - Fran 3 times from Crystal Falls, MI.

AND 1 time from Des Moines, IA. stopped over there on the way back to their Fort Davis Resort home! Welcome Back.

KI5JTB - Rachel 4 times from San Marcos, TX

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

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## Big Bend Emergency Net Report

### October 1 from WA5ROE

Date	Net Control Station	Check Ins	Length (min)	Remarks
9-6	WA5ROE	42	40	
9-13	W5NPR	36	30	
9-20	WA5ROE	44	44	
9-27	W5NPR	36	30	

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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## BBRC Repeater System

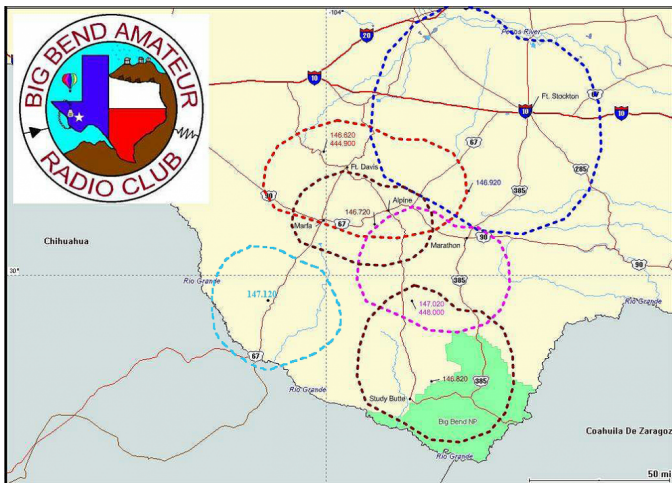
The BBARC operates six 2m repeaters, all connected via the hub 147.020. Contact with one repeater transmits from all repeaters. The frequencies are 100 kHz apart on the 2's: 146.62, .72, .82, .92, 147.02, and .12.

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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## EchoLink Station K5FD-R Alpine

Access the 2m repeater system through the club's EchoLink station. Get the EchoLink application on your smartphone or a base station with a Windows computer. [echolink.org](http://echolink.org)

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## Bill Brooks KE5OG SK

The October issue of QST has long term member of BBARC Bill Brooks KE5OG listed with Silent Keys on page 97. Bill was the newsletter editor and EchoLink server operator for the club.

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## Tom Gius N5NYZ Estate Sale

*October 24 Noon to 5pm*

An estate sale for Tom Gius N5NYZ will feature Ham radio gear during this time slot. This is a golden opportunity as there are hundreds of radio gear items and thousands of parts all priced to sell. Stereo gear is also available .

For details and 21 pictures, there is a special web page for this estate. Highly recommended.

[TOM GIUS N5NYZ ESTATE](#)

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## BBARC Web Site Changes

The club's web site now has EchoLink in the main menu and a page dedicated to our K5FD-R station and information about EchoLink. Watch for the content to grow over the next few months.

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## EchoLink Report

The K5FD-R EchoLink station computer is getting less reliable. Microsoft has given up on updating the operating system. It is too old. Time to get the new system running.

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## From the Editor

### *A Better EchoLink Computer - Windows 10 LTSC*

Building a better EchoLink computer means having a dedicated, single purpose computer removed of all the applications, services, and anything that uses system resources, especially network traffic. Here is a quote from the Microsoft web site:

“The Long-Term Servicing Channel (LTSC) is designed for Windows 10 devices and use cases where the key requirement is that functionality and features don't change over time. Examples include medical systems (such as those used for MRI and CAT scans), industrial process controllers, and air traffic control devices. These devices share characteristics of embedded systems: they are typically designed for a specific purpose and are developed, tested, and certified before use. They are treated as a whole system and are, therefore, commonly “upgraded” by building and validating a new system, turning off the old device, and replacing it with the new, certified device.”

I like the idea of the EchoLink server or EchoLink user rig being in the same class as medical equipment. Linux and Raspberry Pi might be the end game, but let's build a Windows unit first and try LTSC.

Scott K1SANQ

## 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