



Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club K5FD

November 2020

Alpine, Texas

November 10 BBARC Monthly Meeting
2m repeater system
7:30 pm (7:00 early checkin with W5NPR)

FCC Licensing Fees

\$50 fees for FCC transactions is a hot topic right now. The FCC is taking comments, and the ARRL has a PDF file with information about submitting comments.

<http://www.arrl.org/FCC-Fees-Proposal>

The deadline is November 16.

Responses to comments have a deadline of November 30.

There are several points to consider in your opinion. Spend some time working on it with an editor. Be sure to include your name and address. Save the file in PDF form (File Export As or Print then Print as PDF). Other formats are accepted.

When ready to submit the file, follow the second page of the ARRL instructions with the FCC web site. The comments will be posted to the FCC site.

There is also a mechanism to reply to comments posted.

ARRL West Texas

Our region of ARRL has a great website:

arrl-wtx.org

One of the activities is the Thursday night roundtable on Zoom. This net is open to all and starts with a technical presentation, questions, and then the round table.

Richard Hawkins W5DWI Has Died

Richard Leroy Hawkins, 84, a resident of Alpine, Texas, passed away on Oct. 17, 2020.

He is survived by his wife, Lora Hawkins and his brother William Earl "Billy" Hawkins. He also leaves behind a large and loving family and many friends near and far to mourn his passing.

Richard was born July 25, 1936 in Cut and Shoot, Texas. At the age of 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, where he served his country as a pilot. He retired after 22 years.

Later he served as the emergency management coordinator for the City of Houston, Texas, where he received many awards and accolades for his work.

After his retirement from the City of Houston, he moved to Calhoun County, Texas, where he met and married the love of his life, Lora. They moved to Alpine, and spent many happy hours exploring this beautiful part of the country. He loved to get in his Jeep, and drive the scenic roads of Brewster County.

Richard was a devoted member of the Masonic Lodge, and became a 32nd degree Mason. He was also an amateur radio operator for over 60 years.

Richard's last days were made comfortable by the wonderful, caring staff at Big Bend Regional Medical Center. The family wants to thank them for the kindness and compassion shown to our family at this difficult time.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

His services were entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home. Online condolences may be left at alpinememorialfuneralhome.com.

BBARC Minutes of Meeting

October 13, 2020

The meeting was attended by 21 members and guests.

W5NPR.....Bill.....Alpine
WA5ROE.....Bob.....Alpine
KA5PVB.....Chuck.....Alpine
KB5R.....Rusty.....Alpine
KF5KMA.....Dan.....Alpine
KI5EXF.....Sharon.....Alpine
WA5MHO.....Dean.....Alpine
KE5KNQ.....Rob.....Alpine
KX5SP.....Steve.....Alpine
N5JOE.....Jim.....Alpine
KG5LMG.....Marvin.....Fort Davis
K5WSA.....Bill.....Fort Davis
KG5ZIC.....Pamela.....Fort Davis
KE5WCP.....Stephen.....Fort Davis
N5HYD.....Doug.....Fort Davis
N5MVB.....Angie.....Fort Davis
KD5KBU.....Jim.....Fort Davis
KG5ZIB.....Judie.....Fort Davis
KI5JTB.....Rachel.....San Marcos
KG5HEJ.....Al.....Terlingua
KI5ANQ.....Scott.....Terlingua

Due to the Covid-19 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.

The minutes of the September 8, 2020 meeting were read and approved.

Angie N5MVB reported a current balance of \$9,886.11. Activity included two payments to Big Bend Telephone for \$35.70 for September & \$35.74 for October.

Doug N5HYD gave a repeater report as follows: "We think the repeater issue is all from the 146.82 Christmas Mountain site. We are pretty sure the solar charge controller has an issue and that the batteries are past their usual operational life span and we are down to just a few of the 20+ year old solar panels." A maintenance trip to Christmas Mountain is being planned.

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. He also discussed the BBARC website and the addition of EchoLink logs.

Bob WA5ROE reported on the Estate Sale of N5NYZ, Tom Guis, who had become a Silent Key. The sale is scheduled for October 24th from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM and is limited to ham operators. The sale has been added to the website with photos of some of the equipment, tubes and parts available for purchase. He emphasized that the photos in no way fully represent all available for sale.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectively Submitted

Bill Roberts W5NPR

2 Meter Net Report

October 2020 from Chuck KA5PVB

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 (432/386-8052) 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 month of October we had four (4) Wednesday's, and it went this way:

Date	Check Ins	Net Station	Net Ctlr
Oct 7	19	KA5PVB	Chuck (fill in for N5BBJ)
Oct 14	14	KF5KMA	Dan
Oct 21	13	KI5ANQ	Scott (fill in for KA5PVB)
Oct 28	21	KA5PVB	Chuck (repaying Scott for last week)

monthly total: 67

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:

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

N5BBJ - Bruce from South Padre Island, TX.

AI4BA - David (unknown location).

W5JSR and KK5ROB - Steve and Robin from Peoria, AZ. (Phoenix suburb).

A big THANKS to Scott for his work on the EchoLink system, it really sounds good and the long time delay seems to be gone!

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

Big Bend Emergency Net Report

October 2020 from WA5ROE

Date	Net Station	Check Ins	Length (min)	Remarks
Oct 4	WA5ROE	45	40	
Oct 11	WA5ROE	39	40	add K4AAA
Oct 18	WA5ROE	48	43	add WA5LHM rm W5DWI SK
Oct 25	W5NPR	44	40	

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.

Emergency Nets

Mondays7:30pm.....ARES section 3873 kHz
 Sundays.....8:15amBBEN 3922kHz
 Sundays.....2:00pm.....RACES state district 8 7255 kHz
 2nd and 4th Sundays, listen only

EchoLink Report

The K5FD-R EchoLink station is part of a new base station (furniture) and making room for the new computer and radio equipment. The computer is an Intel NUC. Another radio is coming, a Kenwood TM-D710, and it will drive a 5/8 wave vertical antenna (VHF/UHF). Dual systems will allowing testing before the change over and shutting down the old computer, radio, and power supply.

APRS Report

APRS is coming with the installation of the Kenwood TM-D710 and sharing the Intel NUC computer running EchoLink. This is the first APRS report.

BBRC Repeater System

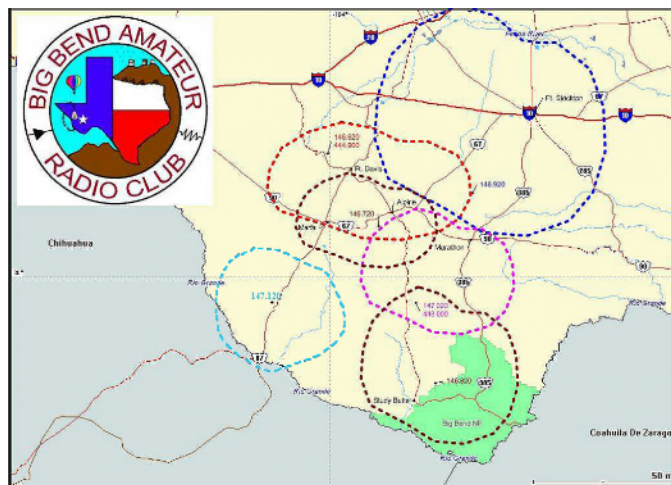
The BBARC operates six 2m repeaters, all connected via the hub 147.020. Contact with one repeater transmits from all repeaters. The frequencies are 100 kHz apart on the 2's: 146.62, .72, .82, .92, 147.02, and .12.

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, 110 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.



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

Sun Activity Picking Up

Attention HF enthusiasts, the Sun is waking up and sun spot activity is increasing. Time to pay attention to propagation reports and fire up the big rig. Here's the scoop from K7RA:

The two sunspot regions currently visible, 2778 and 2779, have been growing rapidly. The total sunspot areas in millionths of the solar disc on October 27 – 29 were 140, 230, and 440. Such activity has not been seen since May 5 – 7, 2019, when the total sunspot area was 280, 300, and 410. Going farther back, the last time the sunspot area was higher than the 440 we saw on Thursday was late September and early October 2017, when the sunspot area reached 560.

From the Editor

FCC Fees

There are two main issues with the FCC license fees that I consider unfair to Ham radio enthusiasts. First, VE's do all the work to run license exams. Will the fees fund license exams by FCC employees? Second, I see this is an attack on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics efforts by teachers, scout leaders, and ARRL clubs to teach young people the ten areas involved in Ham licensing. Students are the least likely to raise \$50 for a license, and the fee is clearly a detriment to these education efforts. There should be exemptions for education or age.

The ARRL guideline wants comments to reflect a rosy picture of why Hams are so good and don't deserve the fees. I feel specific points are critical to debate, and have picked two above. Fees may fund testing, and there could be exemptions for education or age. The fees collected by other agencies are directed toward specific services, but not HA (amateur radio). The fee money should go back into Ham radio. There are many things Hams do for the love of Ham radio. They include clubs, communication at events, field day, competition, technical research and expertise, and license upgrades.

The N5NYZ Estate Sale

Our hobby tends to collect radios, power supplies, parts, antennas, workbench tools, and books. When a Ham passes on, the family is left with a wealth of items they may know nothing about. Fortunately, Hams have many compadres, and some of them collect, too. An estate sale happens.

The first day (Oct 24) of N5NYZ's estate sale was well attended by the club. This turned into a real field day for the members, talking about gear, giving advice, and purchasing some items. Mike W5POK was very helpful.

PiStar

The WTX Thursday October 29th Zoom roundtable featured a presentation by Chris W5SB of digital voice modes, particularly AllStar (allstarlink.org). Chris held up circuit boards and talked about the ease of building digital systems with the Raspberry Pi. Another Ham, Elmer W5SLG held up a PiStar computer and talked about it (pistar.uk). This is the bee's knees. Download a file, create a microSD card for the Pi 4, insert the card, power up and instant tool for digital voice modes.

Another point of the presentation by Chris was audio fidelity. EchoLink and VOIP are okay, but the other methods are better for good voice reproduction. D-STAR was another mode



The K5FD-R EchoLink UHF antenna pointed at Elephant Mountain was a bit frosty on October 27. Cinega, Goat, and Cathedral Mountains are seen at first light. Picture from Sharon KI5EXF.

mentioned, an Icom product. Chris says D-STAR on 80m has exceptional clarity. Other modes are Fusion from Yaesu and DMR from Motorola (now open source).

One of the important questions in the round table was "What is a Raspberry Pi?" It is time for the Ham's to embrace this technology and move away from the Windows operating system and PC hardware. There are many reasons to move to the Raspberry Pi - cost, open source, Linux, and data acquisition. The Pi is very easy to configure for a special purpose. It is exemplary at data acquisition. Sparkfun.com is a great place to explore how the Pi monitors and controls with added boards. Check out their tutorials. Search this hobby site for "SDR," too!

Scott KI5ANQ

Tom Gius N5NYZ Estate Sale

The estate sale for Tom Gius N5NYZ was well attended on October 24. The next sale will be open to the public on November 13 14 9am to 2pm. Brenda is rearranging and taking more pictures. Mike W5POK can arrange appointments for other times. Someone in the east bought all the remaining radios.

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

[TOM GIUS N5NYZ ESTATE](#)

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

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.

EchoLink has information about the club's K5FD-R EchoLink station, logs, and setting up EchoLink.

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.

EditorScott McClanahanKI5ANQ
.....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 WardWA5ROE
.....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 AyerKA1AAJ (SK)
2m Net ManagerChuck Dobbins ...KA5PVB