



Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club K5FD

March 2021

Alpine, Texas

March 9 BBARC Monthly Meeting

2m repeater system

7:30 pm (7:00 early checkin with KI5ANQ)

BBARC Minutes of Meeting

February 9, 2021

The meeting was attended by 24 members and guests.

- K4AAA.....RonFort Davis
- K5WSA.....Bill.....Fort Davis
- K7VEN.....ArtFort Davis
- KA5PVB.....Chuck.....Alpine
- KB5R.....Rusty.....Alpine
- KE5KNQ.....RobAlpine
- KE5WCP.....Stephen.....Fort Davis
- KF5KMA.....DanAlpine
- KG5HEJ.....Al.....Terlingua Ranch
- KG5LMG.....Marvin.....Fort Davis
- KG5ZIB.....JudiFort Davis
- KI5ANQ.....Scott.....Terlingua
- KI5EXF.....Sharon.....Alpine
- KI5JTB.....Rachel.....San Marcos
- KI5NEK.....JerryAlpine
- KX5SP.....Steve.....Alpine
- N5CET.....Charlie.....Alpine
- N5HYD.....Doug.....Fort Davis
- N5MVV.....Angie.....Fort Davis
- W5ATO.....Bill.....Alpine
- W5NPR.....Bill.....Alpine
- WA5MHO.....Dean.....Alpine
- WA5ROE.....BobAlpine

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 7:28 PM by President Stephen KE5WCP.

The minutes of the January 12, 2020 meeting were read and accepted.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Angie N5MVV reported a current balance of \$8478.85. Income from donations was \$214.00 and from dues \$648.00. Expenses included State Auto (RV insurance), \$1157.00, True Value \$2.99, and Big Bend Telephone \$36.08 (on Elephant Mtn at the 2m hub).

The treasurer's report was accepted.

2m Repeater Report

Doug N5HYD has not looked at the 82 repeater. The controller may have water damage, but repairable.

EchoLink Report

Router "Quality of Service" function turned off and this improved the EchoLink reliability.

142 connects on EchoLink this month (January).

SkyWarn training on March 11 at 7:30 pm. Bob WA5ROE provided the email from Amber Hluchan, the meteorologist in Midland. The training is not Zoom, but a web seminar. The link and information will be sent out again on 3-10. There will be one more reminder at the meeting, which is two days before SkyWarn on Thursday.

February 13th is license exam session in Alpine. Rusty KB5R reported testing for all 3 license levels. Bring \$15 and a copy

of your current license. New licenses (technician) should bring an ID card (driver license).

Scott KI5ANQ brought up new business of the club getting a PayPal account. Purpose is to allow online payment to the club. Challenges are deciding if the terms are agreeable with the club, connecting PayPal to the club bank account, designating two members to having access to funds, and adding the use of PayPal to the club web site. The terms are thirty cents a transaction plus two point two percent of the transaction amount. The goals are to create a web site page for members to pay dues, and another page for donations. The PayPal transactions would be part of the treasurer's report to see if we get success out of it. With COVID keeping people at home, paying online, and not using checks anymore, PayPal is becoming a necessity. The Midland club uses PayPal, and our web master Allen N5NYM recommended PayPal. Stephen KE5WCP made a motion to move forward with PayPal. The motion carries. Scott KI5ANQ will work with Bob WA5ROE, Angie N5MVV, and Allen N5NYM to get PayPal set up and operating on our web site.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott McClanahan KI5ANQ

2 Meter Net Report

February 2021 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 becoming a net controller, 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 2m net roster are both posted on the club website for you to download and use as a NCS!

Date	Check Ins	Net Station	Net Ctlr
Feb 3	32	KA5PVB	Chuck
Feb 10	25	KI5ANQ	Scott
Feb 17	18	KG5LMG	Marvin
Feb 24	23	N5BBJ	Bruce

The month of February had four (4) Wednesday's with a monthly total: 98 (note - this might be an all-time high for a monthly check-in total).

A hearty congratulations to Bruce N5BBJ on 10 years of being a net control station! 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. 3 times.

KI5RIC - Ric from Ruidoso, NM. 3 times.

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

KG5HEJ - Al from Terlingua, TX.

KI5NEK - Jerry from Double Diamond, TX.

KC5WFH - Bill from Kingston, WA.

KB0VLR - Chris from Red Wing, MN. and mobile between Alpine and Presidio, TX. 3 times.

KI5YG - Steve - Austin, TX

A big THANKS to Scott - KI5ANQ for his work on the EchoLink system, it really sound good and the long time delay's seem to be gone!

I want to specifically thank our six (6) 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 and KI5EXF - Sharon (substitute, and "possible" future NCS). When you see them, thank them for all their efforts for the 2 meter net.

73,

Chuck Dobbins - KA5PVB
2 meter Net Manager

Big Bend Emergency Net Report

February 2021 from Bob WA5ROE

Date	Net Station	Check Ins	Length (min)	Remarks
Feb 7	W5NPR	45	43	
Feb 14	WA5ROE	47	46	
Feb 21	WA5ROE	47	50	
Feb 28	W5NPR	47	35	

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

2m Repeater Report

February 2021 from Doug N5HYD

The 82 equipment brought down from Christmas Mtn indicates water damage on the controller circuit board that should be repairable.

EchoLink Report for K5FD-R

February 2021 from Scott KI5ANQ

No changes with the EchoLink station this month.

Total Number of Connections: 198

Users With Most Connections:

Gold Medal at 29 KI5NEK

Silver Medal at 15 KI5NMX

Bronze Medal at 10 KG5HEJ

APRS Report

February 2021 from Scott KI5ANQ

The APRS station needs to be brought back up before spring break starts. Will be a beacon with club web site and repeater info. Also a digipeater.

Web Site Report

February 2021 from Scott KI5ANQ

More work on the Member page this month. Added the **Member Status table** showing dues, ARRL membership, and other lists of call signs. The ARRL expiration dates are now tracked. The Status Table shows ARRL recent expirations and ones soon to expire. Most of the member email addresses are available and the call sign in the Member Contact table is a link to send them email.

The New Member page (link is in the Welcome part of the home page) now has a link to download the **BBARC New Member form**.

The home page has information about ARRL membership being started or renewed through the club. It includes a link to a PDF form to print, fill out, and send to the club.

Renew or Join ARRL through the BBARC

Create or renew your ARRL membership through the club, and the club keeps some of the money! This takes about a month, so renewals should be done two months early. Print the **ARRL Membership form** from the BBARC web site home page, fill the form out, write a check payable to BBARC for the membership amount, and mail to the club.

1402 N 5th St

Alpine TX 79830-2512

BBARC Repeater System

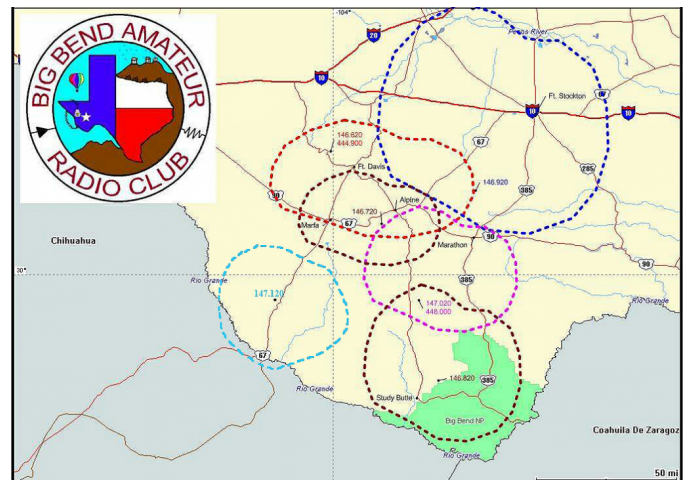
The BBARC operates six 2m repeaters, all connected via the hub 147.020. Contact with one repeater transmits from all repeaters. The frequencies are 100 kHz apart on the 2's: 146.62, .72, .82, .92, 147.02, and .12.

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, Old Ore Road
- 146.920-.....Located on the Glass Mountains, covers US 67 north, Alpine, Fort Stockton, I10 from picnic area 20 miles east of town to US 67 exit west of town, Odessa
- 147.120+Covers Presidio, Shafter, Cibolo Creek
- 147.020+System hub. Located on Elephant Mtn, covers TX 118 South of Mile High Road, O2 Flats (the "O2" frequency), Terlingua Ranch

All repeaters require a 146.2 Hz squelch tone on your transmit signal (CTCSS) and standard offsets. There is a 3 minute timeout. No digital modes, make sure those are off.

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 Windows station computer. echolink.org

Club Officers

PresidentStephen Cook.....KE5WCP
Vice-president.....Billy Roberts.....W5NPR
Secretary.....Scott McClanahanKI5ANQ
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 the BBARC mailing address below.

Club Mailing and Email Address

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club

1402 N. 5th St.

Alpine, Texas 79830-2512

K5FD@ARRL.net

www.bigbendarc.com

The BBARC web site contains a Member exclusive area, news, events, regular reports, Big Bend Emergency Network reports, 2m Net reports, and newsletter archive.

Member is password protected with exclusive member information.

Newsletters contains PDF files of The Bark newsletter.

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 and friends. To be added to the distribution list, submit content, make comments, or add events, send an email to the editor.

EditorScott McClanahanKI5ANQ
contact.....ki5anq@arrl.net

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
contact.....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

BBARC News

Test Session 3-6 10am

Test Session, Saturday, March 6th at the American Legion at 304 West Sul Ross in Alpine. Testing will begin at 10:00 AM. Masks will be required to enter the building. If you want to take the Technician test bring a government photo ID, and Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) in cash. Those for General or Extra class testing must also bring a copy of their current license. There will be a charge for each test administered on Saturday. Rusty KB5R, VEC

SkyWarn Class 3-11 7:30pm

This session of the SkyWarn training will be mainly WTX section Hams and our club. An email has been sent to members with the meeting connection. A reminder will be sent the day before.

ARRL Membership Verification Report

Once a year, the ARRL requires affiliated clubs to send a list of voting members. "Voting members" translates into dues paying members. Which comes first, the member list or the dues payers? Only 46% of BBARC members have paid club dues. ARRL membership of the dues payers is 85%, and of all 57 on the member list, 60% are verified ARRL members. Depending on dues payment, the club ARRL membership will end up between 60% and 85%.

The report also has expiration dates. The Member page now tracks this, showing expired memberships and upcoming renewal dates.

PayPal for the BBARC

We are getting organized to open a club account on PayPal. Bob WA5ROE, Angie N5MVV, and Scott KI5ANQ will meet at the hardware store and get the account set up by phone or Internet or both. There are several steps with transactions, then the account is ready to go. After setting up PayPal, a web page for new BBARC members and renewals will be created. There will also be places in the BBARC web site where visitors can donate to the club.

ARRL News

New FCC Amateur Radio Fee

The March QST has more information about the new license fees on page 67. The FCC turned down amateur radio exemption of the fee because it “has no authority to create an exemption where none presently exists.” The FCC disagrees with exempting fees because of public service contributions. “Emergency communications are voluntary and are not required by our rules. Amateur Radio is not an emergency radio service.”

The effective date of the fee schedule has not been determined.

FCC to Require Email Address with Applications and On File

The March QST also has information on the new email address requirement on page 69. “While many, if not most, amateurs have already provided an email to the FCC, **this will now become a requirement**. Under Section 97.21 of the new rules, as amended, the holder of a valid amateur radio station license “must apply to the FCC for a modification of the license grant as necessary to show the correct mailing and email address, licensee name, club name, license trustee name, or license custodian name.” Under Section 97.23, “The email address must be an address where the grantee can receive electronic correspondence. Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct email address.” Licensees can log into the ULS License Manager System with their FRN and password to update their FCC license record, including adding an email address.

Wilderness Emergency Protocols

The March QST has an article about the 146.52 Mhz Wilderness Protocol. Big Bend has one of the largest National Parks and the largest Texas State Park, a sparse population, and cell phone service only in the towns. The 2m repeaters are an exceptional service to anyone in the backcountry or backroads. There is also a simplex protocol on 146.52 (our missing repeater frequency) that we should be scanning with our base station radios.

The origin of the protocol is William Alsop N6XMW in a February 1994 QST article. Besides monitoring 146.52, there are times for safety checks (10am, 1pm, and 4pm). The top of each hour is the time for transmitting and listening to emergency reports.

There is another protocol, Long Tone Zero. Sounds like a character name in a Western novel. Taken literally, it means hold the Zero DTMF key down while transmitting for at least

3 seconds. This cues anyone listening that an emergency message follows. Some hardware monitors this and does something, like a phone patch on a repeater, or transmit information.

The other aspect of emergency calls is location. Many HTs have GPS, so make sure the emergency communication includes lat & lon early in the conversation.

From the Editor

License Fees

The new \$35 FCC license fee instructs “the applicant to pay application fees directly to the FCC via the License Manager system,” in a letter from Maria Somma, ARRL VEC Manager. “VE teams would not have to collect the \$35 fee at the session. For candidates that take and pass more than one level test, one application is filled out for the highest level license they qualify for.” Does not matter how many exams you took, just the end result of passing exams.

The other test fee is \$15 collected by the VE team. Here’s some information about the exam session fees from Ms Somma. “The VE team is solely responsible for the proper administration of the exam session and management of the exam materials and fees, not any organization.” The VE team is its own entity and not part of the club. “The exam fees must be kept separate from the club finances and can only be used for the VE exam session related expenses.” There is no way clubs can draw income from exam sessions. We can have club membership forms at the exam sessions. Test takers can take them home to fill out and mail with dues.

There is still confusion about the meaning of this statement from ARRL.

“One fee pays for one attempt at each of the three exam elements.” Is it one attempt or one attempt at all three? Unfortunately, my question to Ms. Somma was only answered with the same quotation the question was about. This is where exam fees are not clear, however, because the VE team can create its own fee schedule, the statement is academic.

No Email, No License

The FCC is getting more hard nosed about amateur operators having an email address. The language is becoming more severe. Submitting an application is where email causes a problem. We now know to go update our FCC database information ASAP, and that waiting until July could create problems. If the mailing address is bad, the FCC will definitely take action.

As club secretary, I’m trying to gather email addresses to communicate with club members. Still a quarter of the members I’m not sure have email or an operational email account. My next step is to mail a letter to contact members using the addresses in the FCC database. One letter came back undeliverable! The FCC won’t be as resourceful as your club secretary. They just email using their database, and if it bounces or no response, they simply change the status of the license.

I’ll feel better as club secretary when every member has an email address and responds at least once. The list is in the Member Status table on the Member page.

Scott KI5ANQ