



Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club K5FD

May 2021

Alpine, Texas

May 11 BBARC Monthly Meeting - In-Person!
West Texas National Bank Conference Room
7:30 pm (doors open 7:00)

BBARC Minutes of Meeting

April 13, 2021

The meeting was attended by 19 members and guests.

- K5WSA.....Bill.....Fort Davis
- KA5PVB.....Chuck.....Alpine
- KB5R.....Rusty.....Alpine
- KD5KBU.....Jim.....Fort Davis
- KF5KMA.....Dan.....Alpine
- KG5LMG.....Marvin.....Fort Davis
- KG5LMK.....Mike.....Fort Davis
- KG5ZIB.....Judi.....Fort Davis
- KI5ANQ.....Scott.....Terlingua
- KI5EXF.....Sharon.....Alpine
- KM4TYV.....Cheryl.....Alpine
- N5CET.....Charlie.....Alpine
- N5HYD.....Doug.....Fort Davis
- N5MVV.....Angie.....Fort Davis
- W5NPR.....Bill.....Alpine
- WA5MHO.....Dean.....Alpine
- WA5POK.....Mike.....Alpine
- WA5ROE.....Bob.....Alpine
- N5RAY.....John.....RGV visitor

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 Vice President Bill W5NPR.

May 2021 The BARK

The minutes of the March 9, 2021 meeting were read and accepted.

Treasurer Angie N5MVV gave treasurers report for February and March. There was income from dues - \$396 (11 members), ARRL Memberships/Renewals - \$98, and donations - \$9. Expenses include the Big Bend Telephone \$36.08 (March) and \$36.20 (April). ARRL membership check was \$81. The report was accepted.

New business from Doug N5HYD that there is a new connection with PermNet. This repeater system goes from Fort Stockton, Odessa, and to San Angelo. Doug will set up a dial up system, but currently tested connection through another method. Scott KI5ANQ was concerned about extra traffic on our repeater system and to disconnect at night. Doug explained the current connection is through a repeater the other group has in the Glass Mountains, but not the location of our 92 repeater. The group's Glass Mtn repeater is hitting the 02 hub just like one of our repeaters. Doug's understanding is they will connect on an "as needed" basis. Scott has heard the connection used and made contacts with the other group several times. The audio is perfect. Doug has known Andrew N5RGH for many years and knows he does quality work. Bob WA5ROE wants the connection for emergency use. The West Texas connection has not worked from time to time, so another one can come in handy and may be a better way. Dial up connection when it is needed by either side is a good thing. This plan was adopted - connect on demand.

Rusty KB5R reported on the party 4-24 at his QTH. Rusty and Sarah are preparing the house and looking forward to it.

Field Day June 26 & 27 has the same rules as 2020.

Scott KI5ANQ reported on EchoLink. At the end of the month a new computer replaced the old club laptop. The new

one is a mini PC running Windows 10 Pro. The existing USB radio interface and UHF transceiver are still in use. The first test was the BBEN. EchoLink required one change to allow more than one operator to connect, called conferencing. There is a new version of EchoLink, the first update in 14 years (an industry record). The new computer and new software are more reliable, and they fixed a few things. The system stayed up continuously from 2m Net to BBEN on Sunday morning, a station record for reliability. Normally, it failed about every 15 minutes (link disabled). There were 127 connections in March.

Scott KI5ANQ reported no progress on PayPal due to people busy with spring break and out of town.

Future meetings at the bank are still not known at this time. The 2m meetings have gone well, but we are missing the presentations and face to face visits, noted Bill W5NPR.

Charlie N5CET reported an EchoHam application on the Apple platform that works with EchoLink. Scott KI5ANQ reported a Mac version he tried did not work because of the progression Apple has made in operating systems the past 2 years.

Bob WA5ROE has been in contact with the bank, and the conference room is on the agenda for our meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott McClanahan KI5ANQ, BBARC Secretary

2 Meter Net Report

April 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!

The month of April had four (4) Wednesday's and it went this way:

Date	Check Ins	Net Station	Net Ctlr
April 7	28	N5BBJ	Bruce
April 14	22	W5RHN	Bob
April 21	20	KF5KMA	Dan
April 28	25	KA5PVB	Chuck

Monthly total of 95 check-ins.

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, 3 times.

KI5RIC - Ric from Ruidoso NM.

KG5HEJ - Al from Terlingua, 3 times.

KG5ZHT - Lonny from Van Horn, 2 times.

W5MOX - Jerry from Alpine, 2 times.

KF5RDN - Julianne from Phoenix AZ, 2 times.

KD7CI - Don from San Antonio.

KI5EXF - Sharon from Buda.

A big THANKS to Scott - KI5ANQ for his work on the EchoLink system, it really sound good and the long time delays 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

April 2021 from Bob WA5ROE

Date	Net Station	Check Ins	Length (min)	Remarks
April 4	W5NPR	49	40	
April 11	WA5ROE	52	49	
April 18	WA5ROE	49	49	
April 25	W5NPR	44	50	

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 for K5FD-R

April 2021 from Scott KI5ANQ

No changes with the EchoLink system. The new computer is running a little better, but the link disconnect problem still occurs. The problem only occurs every few days instead of every few hours. Seems to happen when users disconnect.

The presentation at the May 11 will show the steps for setting up user mode EchoLink on a Windows PC.

Total Number of Connections: 148
Users With Most Connections:
Gold Medal at 23 KI5PNK & KC5WFH
Silver Medal at 11 KI5JTB
Bronze Medal at 10 KG5ZHT

APRS Report

April 2021 from Scott KI5ANQ

Unfortunately, no APRS work done this month. A stand alone APRS system from byonics.com will be installed and tested and may become the APRS station running 24/7 on emergency power.

Web Site Report

April 2021 from Scott KI5ANQ

Nothing new on the web site this month other than event updates. PayPal is almost to the point of adding it to the web site. Much work was done on mining the FCC ULS database. The goal is to have a table on the Member page with the FCC data so club members can verify their FCC record. I've gathered FCC records of all ham license holders in our four counties. This summer, they should all have valid email addresses, making it easy for the club secretary to send them an invitation to join the BBARC.

BBARC Information

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

ARRL Email Alias

Prepare for the FCC email requirement now with a permanent email address. Many ARRL members have an email alias, which forwards messages to their regular email account. The club's email address is K5FD@ARRL.NET. It is easy to set up with Edit Account on your ARRL profile. Make sure your User Name value is set to your call sign. The User Name can be changed.

BBRC Repeater System

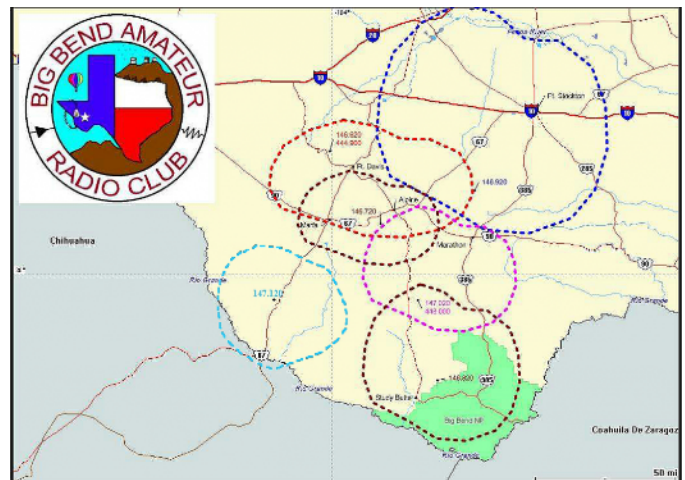
The BBARC operates six 2m repeaters, all connected via the hub 147.020. Contact with one repeater transmits from all repeaters. The frequencies are 100 kHz apart on the 2's: 146.62, .72, .82, .92, 147.02, and .12.

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, 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 McClanahan.....KI5ANQ
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 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 McClanahan.....KI5ANQ
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 Ward.....WA5ROE
contact.....K5FD@ARRL.NET.

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

Club Dues

Club dues are all done in January, so getting significantly past that now. Of our 58 members, only 32 have paid dues this year.

Dues are \$36 per year for individual or individual & spouse. Dues can be mailed to the club's address with check payable to the BBARC:

1402 N 5th St, Alpine TX 79830-2512

BBARC and ARRL renewal can be done together with one check. Be sure to fill out the ARRL renewal form found on the home page of the web site.

Field Day June 26 & 27

The usual field day activities for the club should be on for the Double Diamond. Antennas, food, and hot weather will be at the club house. Always a fun weekend with special guests. Bob WA5ROE will organize work crews to prepare the site Friday, set up antennas, cook, and clean up Sunday.

ARRL News

FRN Required Prior to Testing

Beginning May 20, 2021, all amateur examination applicants will be required to provide an FCC Registration Number (FRN) to the Volunteer Examiners (VEs) before taking an amateur exam. This is necessary due to changes the FCC has made to its licensing system.

Email Required June 29th

In addition, after June 29, all applications will be required to contain an email address for FCC correspondence. Applicants will receive an email direct from the FCC with a link to the

official electronic copy of their license whenever a license is issued or changed. ARRL VEC suggests that those without access to email to use the email address of a family member or friend. Licensees will be able to log in to the ULS using their FRN and password to download the latest version of their license at any time. The FCC no longer provides paper license documents.

GSMNP Hiker Rescued by Ham

A back-country hiker was rescued from Great Smoky Mountains National Park with assistance from amateur radio after she became exhausted on the trail and possibly dehydrated. A member of the hiking group on the park's Little River Trail, Tim Luttrell, KA9EBJ, put out a call on the evening of April 11 via the W4KEV linked VHF repeater in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, requesting assistance in extricating the injured member. No cell phone service was available at the location, and Luttrell's signal was spotty at times, owing to the mountainous terrain.

Responding was David Manuel, W5DJR, who obtained more information and called 911, which routed the call to Great Smoky Mountains National Park Emergency Medical Service (GSMNP EMS).

A medic with the Park Service search-and-rescue team subsequently reached Manuel by telephone, who served to relay questions to Luttrell. Manuel contacted members of the hiker's family after Luttrell provided contact numbers. Manuel was asked to relay information for the family to arrange to meet in Cherokee, North Carolina, and be prepared to transport the distressed hiker's vehicle to her home.

Manuel continued to monitor the repeater system and got a call from Luttrell indicating "all clear" shortly after 2 AM. Manuel later received a text indicating that the family members had connected with the distressed hiker and extended their thanks to all who had helped out.

The injured hiker was hospitalized and required surgery and rehabilitation. Thomas told ARRL that he'd learned another hiker in the same group was close to hypothermia by the time they were rescued.

Thomas will recognize each of the radio amateurs involved in the rescue with a Certificate of Merit during the ARRL Tennessee State Convention in Knoxville on June 19.

Astronauts Are All Hams

NASA will provide live coverage of the upcoming return activities for the agency's SpaceX Crew-1 mission with astronauts Michael Hopkins, KF5LJG; Victor Glover, KI5BKC; Shannon Walker, KD5DXB, and Soichi Noguchi, KD5TVP, from the International Space Station.

Editors Note: I worked in Mission Control for two dozen shuttle missions. I've read all the astronaut autobiographies. Every astronaut is ham licensed. It is not required, they are simply that kind of a person. Alas, they too have trouble with radios and antennas in space.

National Amateur Radio Operators Day?

Arizona Congresswoman Debbie Lesko has reintroduced a resolution with bipartisan support to designate April 18, 2022, as National Amateur Radio Operators Day.

"Throughout history, amateur radio operators have provided invaluable services to our communities," Lesko said in a news release. "Amateur radio has brought people together and has

provided critical emergency communications during natural disasters. Amateur radio is a vital part of our nation's communications infrastructure."

As Lesko's resolution notes, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) designates each April 18 as World Amateur Radio Day, to recognize the founding of the IARU in 1925.

The resolution cites the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) for providing "invaluable emergency communications services following recent natural disasters."

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, praised the initiative. "The voluntary contributions of America's approximately 774,000 amateur radio operators in support of the critical communications infrastructure of the United States are rarely recognized in the 106+ years of amateur radio's substantial influence on the development of modern communications."

Students Contact the ISS

An April 20 Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact with youngsters in the small town of Winmalee, New South Wales, Australia, folded excitement and enthusiasm into their studies.

It took a couple of years to arrange the ham radio hook-up with teacher Alison Broderick's K - 6 pupils.

Astronaut Victor Glover, KI5BKC, at NA1SS fielded questions on a range of space travel-related topics. The "tele-bridge" contact involved a direct 2-meter ham radio connection between Glover on the ISS and ARISS team member Jan Poppeliers, ON7UX, in Aartselaar, Belgium, who used the call sign ON4ISS for the event. Two-way long lines audio between Belgium and Australia completed the circuit for the approximately 11-minute contact.

Lessons in the run-up to the ARISS contact focused on the space station, how to track its position in orbit using applied mathematics, and the ISS crew members and their roles. The ham radio contact gave eight youngsters a possibly life-changing opportunity to learn about living and traveling in space by speaking with someone who's already there.

Fourth grader Ayva Dacey appreciated the once-in-a-lifetime experience while fifth grader Erin DeBono expressed amazement that there were no technology glitches.

Glover's number one piece of advice: "Be resilient. Don't stop in the face of challenges. Number two, be a life-long learner — learning inside and outside of the classroom, and number three is to be a good teammate. And you'll always achieve success, no matter what your dreams are."

Stefan Dombrowski, ON6TI, and Luc Vlecken, ON4ALV, took advantage of the opportunity to listen in to the direct 2-meter (145.800 MHz) signal from the ISS as a demonstration for their Belgian Army trainees learning about amateur radio.

"This was a success as we heard all 18 questions and answers and the brief sign-off at both our sites with just a simple hand-held station. It was an excellent demonstration of ham radio capabilities and was also a good educational demonstration of antenna polarization and signal weakening with distance."

Some HF Fun: Aeronautical Mobile

by Charlie N5CET BBARC Member

Besides the challenges afforded in DX's with different countries, working QSO parties with other states, hunting

Parks On The Air (POTA) activators around the country and just general “rag chewing” with friends, I found another fun aspect of some HF bands: Aeronautical Mobile.

A little known activity that I stumbled across is contacting Commercial Airline Pilots/Co-pilots that have Amateur Licenses. They are able to use their cockpit radios to access and use some HF Bands. Taxi, Control Tower and Regional Center radio traffic is confined to an “air” band (typically 115-135 MHz, which some amateur radios and scanners can access in “receive” mode only.) There are calling frequencies set aside in most HF bands specifically for Aeronautical Mobile activity (none in 60 or 30 Meters.)

I have had QSO’s with three different pilots in-flight and one while on the ground. All confirmed that they can do this during stable autopilot operation on long haul flights. Although most HF bands are available, they almost always use 20 meters during daytime flights, as they cannot access LSB. I’ve looked for them on 15, 10, and 6 meters but never found them anywhere but 20 meters. The calling frequencies are 14.342(5) primary and 14.346 secondary. All of my QSO’s were around 14.347, the last being an LAX to HNL (Honolulu) flight headed west about 400 miles off the California Coast.

Parachute Mobile

One Saturday on 14.250, I heard a CQ for anyone that wanted to participate in a Parachute Mobile activity. Returned the call, got in line and 45 seconds later I was having a QSO with KD9OLN, having just jumped from the plane. He was able to take 5 calls prior to “pulling the cord. His QRZ.com page has pictures of previous jumps and how to get in on future events. I suspect that he was “linked” to the radio in the plane, since he was in Illinois and an HT probably wouldn’t have provided a 5/9 report in Alpine.

If he is doing this, there are probably others out there to find.

Balloon Mobile

Upon finding the opportunities outlined above, I set off to explore a hot air balloon contact. I found the balloon parties use commercial radios around 440 MHz for event management, staging and security. The Balloon pilots communicate with the ground “chasers” using either Family Radio Service, GMRS or CB frequencies. They don’t require communications at distances beyond which those services provide. However, I’m still looking for someone using an hot air balloon antenna or one suspended from a kite!

So get on 14.340-14.350 MHz and call “CQ AM CQ AM looking for Aeronautical Mobile (your call sign)” and see who responds.

From the Editor

The first in-person meeting is today. The last in-person meeting was September 8 at Bob and Lucy’s house the night the first winter storm hit. The last meeting at the bank was March 10, 2020. Little did we know the repeater meetings would become normal.

Scott KI5ANQ



Party at Rusty and Sarah’s

The party at Rusty’s KB5R QTH was a wonderful event with great food and sitting around big tables talking. Some members had talked for a year on the radio and met for the first time. Photos by Sharon KI5EXF.



Charlie and Bob



Time for dessert!



Sharon, Scott, Chuck, and Rusty



Charlie's wife, Charlie, Bob, Marvin, and Fran



I Want You to Pay Your Dues!



Scott, Chuck, Dean, and Host Rusty



Standing at the Crossroads



Fran