



Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club K5FD

June 2021

Alpine, Texas

June 8 BBARC Monthly Meeting
West Texas National Bank Conference Room
7:30 pm (doors open 7:00)

BBARC Minutes of Meeting

May 11, 2021

The meeting was attended by 18 members and guests.

- K5WSA.....Bill.....Fort Davis
- KA5PVB.....Chuck.....Alpine
- KD5KBU.....Jim.....Fort Davis
- K35KNQ.....Rob.....Alpine
- KE5WCP.....Stephen.....Fort Davis
- KG5LMG.....Marvin.....Fort Davis
- KG5ZIB.....Judi.....Fort Davis
- KG5ZIC.....Pamela.....Fort Davis
- KI5ANQ.....Scott.....Terlingua
- KI5OJV.....John.....Marfa
- KI5OQB.....Brad.....Terlingua
- KG5ZHT.....Lonny.....Van Horn
- N5CET.....Charlie.....Alpine
- N5HYD.....Doug.....Fort Davis
- N5MVV.....Angie.....Fort Davis
- W5NPR.....Bill.....Alpine
- WA5ROE.....Bob.....Alpine
-Lorenzo.....visitor

This is the first in-person meeting since March 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7:29 PM by President Stephen KE5WCT. The meeting began with each member introducing themselves.

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

Treasurer Angie N5MVV gave the treasurer's report for April. Balance is 8,864.37. Income from dues (2) is \$72, and paid the telephone bill, \$36. The report was accepted.

Doug N5HYD reported on the repeater system. Christmas (82) has the receive audio set too high and will swap out the transceiver. Presidio (12) has a high transmit audio and will swap out the transceiver. Mount Locke (62) has a short on the Vertex VXR-5000 amplifier. Two sites use old Vertex gear and cycling them out. The only one left is on the emergency repeater. We are replacing the Vertex gear with Kenwood.

Bob WA5ROE reported on the Double Diamond Field Day site. We have permission to use the building. Angie N5MVV will send the insurance liability coverage to the owner. Bob will inspect the buildings. The club will operate two 2A stations. Charlie N5CET will run the GOTA station on 6m. Dave N5DO will operate the CW station, and Steve KI5YG will operate side band. Meals are Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and Sunday breakfast and lunch (leftovers). Meals are \$30 for individuals and \$40 for couples. Each club member should bring a 12-pack of water or soda for community consumption. Alcohol is allowed but not provided. Some of the multipliers are low power, CW, and digital modes (FT8). All stations are operating on Elecraft K3s to eliminate interference. Chuck KA5PVB had a question about FT8 using the GOTA station at night. The response is that GOTA is a separate operation. Bill K5WSA asked if separate radio for JT8? No separate radio is needed, JT8 is software and a sound card. KI5YG will coordinate FT8. Need the meal numbers at the next meeting.

The McDonald Observatory tour was mentioned and typically done in August.

The Permian Basin Bicycle Club has not been heard from, according to Jim KD5KB. The organizer of the event moved away.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM, followed by a presentation on installing EchoLink by Scott KI5ANQ.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott McClanahan KI5ANQ, BBARC Secretary

2 Meter Net Report

May 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 May had four (4) Wednesday's and it went this way:

Date	Check Ins	Net Station	Net Ctlr
May 5	27	KI5ANQ	Scott
May 12	21	KG5LMG	Marvin
May 19	26	N5BBJ	Bruce
May 26	28	KA5PVB	Chuck

Monthly total of 102 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, 4 times.

KG5HEJ - Al from Terlingua.

KC5WFH - Bill from Kingston, WA.

K3XY - Mark from Philadelphia, PA.

KG5ZHT - Lonny from Van Horn, 4 times.

KD9SLB - Jeff from Sellersburg, IN. 3 times.

KD5KC - Mike from El Paso, TX. 3 times.

K5CLO - Gordon from Dallas and Ft. Davis, TX. 2 times.

W5MOX - Jerry from Alpine.

KJ7JXM - Robert from Lake Stevens, WA.

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

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

May 2021 from Bob WA5ROE

Date	Net Station	Check Ins	Length (min)	Remarks
May 1	WA5ROE	41	48	
May 9	WA5ROE	51	50	
May 16	WA5ROE	52	48	
May 23	W5NPR	47	45	
May 30	WA5ROE	49	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

EchoLink Report for K5FD-R

May 2021 from Scott KI5ANQ

Total Number of Connections: 608

Users With Most Connections:

Gold Medal at 433 KD9SLB

Silver Medal at 56 K5WSA

Bronze Medal at 12 KG5ZHT

Web Site Report

May 2021 from Scott KI5ANQ

PayPal is now operational and working. Payment is selected with buttons on one page to start the new service and test. A Field Day page now exists.

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

Payment is also possible with PayPal on the club web site.

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.

Club Dues

Club dues are done in January.

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.

BBARC dues and ARRL membership payment is now available through PayPal on the club web site.

Field Day June 26 & 27

The Double Diamond club house has given permission for our Field Day events. The June 8th meeting will focus on the details. A Field Day page on the club web site will have the latest information. A special edition of the newsletter will be emailed and printed copies at the Double Diamond. Events begin Friday with set up and dinner. Saturday is the big day with all three meals served and radio operating. Sunday concludes at noon and has the two early meals. Meals are \$30 for individuals, \$40 for a couple.

BBRC Repeater System

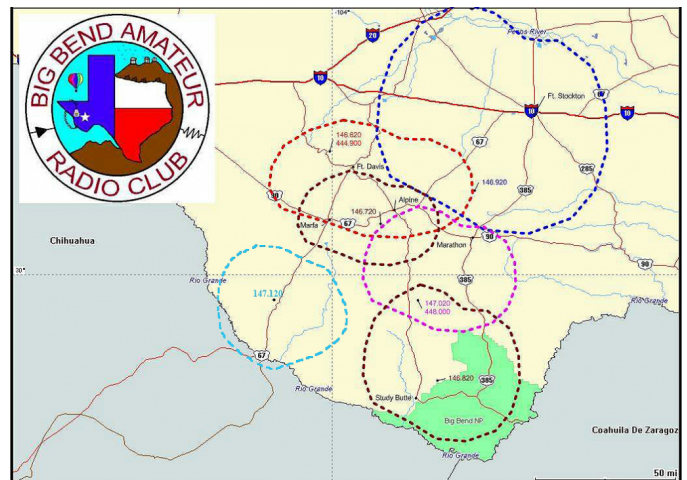
The BBARC operates six 2m repeaters, all connected via the hub 147.020. Contact with one repeater transmits from all repeaters. The frequencies are 100 kHz apart on the 2's: 146.62, .72, .82, .92, 147.02, and .12.

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

Icom IC-V86 2m HT Review

by Scott KI5ANQ, BBARC member

This Icom HT is a basic radio with a big battery and a fair stock antenna. The charge station is 12V, so a plug, cord, and PowerPole plug will work mobile or emergency. The radio has a big battery because it can transmit at 7W. There are three other power levels. It is rugged and has a nice feel. The radio includes weather frequencies and multiple scanning modes. The cost is \$130, but I see the radio for \$95 at MTC.

Operating is easy once memory is programmed. Software and computer attachment are not necessary and can cost over half the price of the radio. Programming is a learning curve. The main downside of this radio is the alien alphabet adopted for the "Set" menu. Like French, I'm learning them one word a day. This radio does FMN, the thinner brother of FM mode, FM Narrow mode. For operating Out Here (Ben H English reference), use Wide mode - good old Relaxed Fit FM.

FCC Email and FRN Requirements

Starting on June 29, all applications filed with the FCC must include an email address for FCC correspondence. After receipt of the initial announcement that all future applications would require an email address, ARRL was concerned for the privacy of its members and requested that amateurs' email addresses not be made public.

This week, the FCC agreed, stating in an email to ARRL counsel that it will continue to "mask" amateurs' email addresses from public view in the Universal Licensing System (ULS). The FCC will use the email address supplied by amateurs to correspond with applicants, including to send a

link to the official electronic copy of the license when an application is granted.

On or after June 29, a valid email address must be provided with each application, and must be kept current by filing a modification application as necessary. Under the amended 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."

Applicants lacking an email address should consider using the email address of a friend or family member on their FCC applications.

Reminder: Due to changes the FCC has made to its licensing system, starting today, Thursday, May 20, all amateur exam applicants must provide their FRN to the Volunteer Examiners (VEs) before taking an amateur exam. Prospective new FCC licensees will be required to obtain an FRN before the examination and provide that number to the VEs on the Form 605 license application.

N5CET FT8 Station

by Charlie N5CET, BBARC member

Here is an example of my FT8 setup with a QSO. On the right top is QRZ.com so I can lookup call signs and log QSO's. The bottom right is the pskreporter.info map display showing where my signal was received in the last 15 minutes. That tells me the recent propagation so I know where I will be able to make a contact (changes by the minute). There is an automatic refresh every five minutes or on demand.

The left half of the screen has WSJT-X software running (waterfall on top and Activity on bottom).

The color highlighted lines in the center is an actual QSO. In order, the lines report the details of the contact:

- Green.....KF5VUD calling CQ
- Yellow.....N5CET answering
- Red.....KF5VUD reporting that I was received at 5dB above the noise level
- Yellow.....N5CET ack that I received his report and he was 3dB below the noise level
- Red.....NF5VUD ack that he received my last report and all is well
- Yellow.....N5CET saying goodbye
- Red.....NF5VUD saying goodbye

From the Editor

This year's Field Day feels more exciting after the shutdown. More people are involved. All of our stations will be operating plus the GOTA station run by Charlie N5CET. New club members will experience the Double Diamond for the first time. Hopefully a dignitary shows up for some bonus points. Friends and the public have an opportunity to watch Ham radio in action. Dining hall meals will be served. Wildlife will be observed. Hope to learn something new and do something new.

Scott K1SANQ

