



BVARC BEACON

Newsletter of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY



VOLUME 49 ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2025

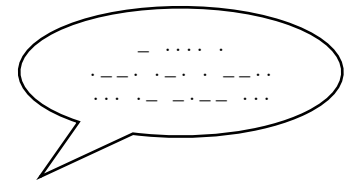
General Membership Meeting Thursday October 9 at 7:30 PM

Community Volunteer Fire Department Community Center, 16005 Bellaire Blvd, Houston TX 77083

Antenna Why's, How's and Who's -- Power Point

The October 9th Ice Cream Social will include a background Power Point about the lighter side of antennas. Scattered with good antenna information, antenna questions, cartoons and antenna history for you to enjoy while eating your ice cream. Not a formal presentation, but something of interest to tickle your grey matter. Produced by *The Radio Hotel and Smoking Crow Productions*

The Prez Says



If you made it to last month's program, you would have gotten the basic primer of SHTF Communications. Richard Bonica, KG5YCU did a great job on Emergency Communications during events and disasters. Remember to be prepared for communications needs by having a go bag with clothes and supplies and of course your radio equipment.

Coming up this month on October 9th is BVARC's annual Ice Cream Social. BVARC's food team will be bringing out the tasty delights of frozen treats and toppings. Make sure you bring your spoon as well as an appetite. During the Social, Rick Hiller, W5RH will have a Power Point display running on antennas and what makes them tick. Rick's presentations are always great and informative. Don't forget to come out to the Ice Cream Social.

Coming up in November will be the annual Chili supper and elections. Again, the BVARC Food Team will be serving wonderful and tasty dishes that should not be missed.

This year there will be several positions open on the BVARC board of directors. Positions open this year are:

- President Treasurer Recording Secretary Corresponding Secretary
- 2 year at large (A) 1 year at large (past President, dependent on the President election)

This is the time for club members to step up and volunteer to help with the management of the club and support amateur radio. The club needs your help to do this and to keep the largest ham radio club in Houston growing. If you would like to volunteer and be on the Board of Directors, please contact the election committee chairman: Chuck Hale, KF5UXP, tooloud61@gmail.com.

There have already been several club members that have stepped up and thrown their name in the hat. I want to thank them for their support and initiative to help the club and amateur radio. I want to personally endorse the following candidates for the following offices:

- Richard Bonica, KG5YCU for President Blake Alley, N5BAA for Recording Secretary
- John Brockus, NE5EA for Treasurer Lee Glassman, W5LEE for Two year at large

I feel that Richard, Blake, John and Lee will bring new ideas and energy to the club as well as continue the structure and history that has made BVARC the largest club in Houston.

Come December, the popular Home Brew Night will be back. This is the best of the home-built equipment that club members can build. If you are interested in exhibiting your great work of art, drop me an e-mail so I can schedule you in the program.

And starting 2026 off will be Winter Field Day in January. The event will be held on the 24th and 25th at the Fort Bend County Fire Training Center. If you would like to help with the set-up or would like to operate, contact Richard Bonica, KG5YCU.

And on February 20th and 21st will be the Greater Houston HamFest at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds. This will be the 23rd year of the HamFest and we are hoping for a greater crowd again this year. There will be a planning session in the middle of October for the GHHF so keep your eyes on the reflector.

Don't forget Belton Ham EXPO on October 4th will be the Ham EXPO – The Belton HamFest. It is the premier ham radio tailgating event in central Texas. The Temple ARC does a great job putting the event on and you should attend the event to support the club and amateur radio.

Do not forget other events in the area such as Parks on the Air, Brews with BVARC, Museum Ships Weekend, and ARRL Field Day. Check the BVARC web site for more info and dates.

See you at the meeting on the 9th!

73

N5VCX

October 2025 –Amateur Radio Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
P: Public Service Net 8 PM Mon R: Rag Chew 3910 kHz 7 PM Wed S: Stir Crazy Net Noon Mon-Fri T: 10-10 Net 8 PM Tue		1 ST	1 RS	2 S	3 S Belton HamEXPO	4 VE Testing Bayland 10:30AM Belton HamEXPO
5 BVARC Board Mtg 5:30 PM Zoom	6 PS	7 ST Brews w/ BVARC	8 RS	9 S BVARC Meeting 7:30 PM	10 S RVRN Rally →	11 →
12 →	13 PS →	14 ST →	15 RS →	16 S →	17 S → RVRN Rally	18
19	20 PS	21 ST	22 RS	23 S	24 S	25
26	27 PS	28 ST	29 RS	30 S	31 S	

10/3-4/2025 Ham EXPO Fall 2025, The Belton HamFest, Bell County Expo Center, Belton, TX

10/4/2025 VE Testing, 10:30 AM, Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074

10/7/2025 Brews with BVARC, 6:30pm, Project Halo Brewing, 6510 FM359 Suite 300, Fulshear, TX 77441

10/12-17/2025 RVRN Radio Network Fall Rally, Elmendorf TX, <http://rvradionetwork.com>

11/15/2025 Houston Parks on the Air, Lake Livingston State Park, 300 Park Road 65, Livingston, TX 77351.

2/20-21/2026 Greater Houston HamFest 2026, Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Rosenberg TX.

November Election Candidates

Come December 31st, a number of the current BVARC Board of Directors (BOD) members will finish their terms. Candidates are being solicited for 2026/2027 terms of office. The following positions will be open:

President	Term	2026 thru 2027
Treasurer	Term	2026 thru 2027
Recording Secretary	Term	2026 thru 2027
Corresponding Secretary	Term	2026 thru 2027
2 Year at Large (A)	Term	2026 thru 2027
1 Year at Large/Past President	Term	2026 (dependent on the President election)

Should you have an interest in running for any of these positions or you have questions as to what is involved, please contact Chuck Hale – KF5UXP – tooloud61@gmail.com and let him know.

Remember, the club needs your help to keep the club running and supporting amateur radio. Remember to attend the November 13th BVARC meeting and VOTE!

Richard Bonica KG5YCU – Candidate for President

Richard Bonica is an active member and leader in the **Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC)**, where he combines his passion for amateur radio with his background in leadership, training, and community service. Within BVARC, Richard has contributed to contesting, Field Day operations, technical workshops, and public service events, helping the club remain a strong and visible part of the Houston amateur radio community. His efforts support BVARC's mission to promote education, fellowship, and emergency preparedness through amateur radio.

Richard brings an extensive background in **leadership and emergency management**. He has completed FEMA's **Professional Development Series** along with the full suite of **ICS training courses (ICS-100, 200, 300, 400, 700, and 800)**. These qualifications allow him to integrate **Incident Command System (ICS)** principles into club activities, ensuring BVARC's participation in public service and emergency communications follows nationally recognized standards. Richard has also served in leadership roles with the **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)**, supporting disaster response, medical surge capacity, and community preparedness initiatives.

Alongside his leadership roles, Richard is an experimenter and builder. He develops homebrew antennas, HF band-pass filters, and open-source logging/mapping tools tailored for contests such as the **Texas QSO Party** and **ARRL Field Day**. By sharing these projects through BVARC activities and presentations, he encourages members to engage not just in operating, but also in building, experimenting, and innovating in amateur radio.

With a background that blends **BVARC leadership, FEMA and ICS training, MRC service, and hands-on technical expertise**, Richard represents the spirit of modern amateur radio: advancing technology, strengthening community resilience, and inspiring others to get on the air.

John Brockus NE5EA – Candidate for Treasurer

I wasn't born in Texas but I got here as fast as I could.

I'm running for the position of club Treasurer for BVARC.

Born in the Midwest (Illinois), raised near St. Louis, College in Illinois My first job was in Spokane, WA. Back to Illinois to care for my mother and in-laws as they aged. Finally, on to Texas in 2014.

I worked in IT for 45 years, 20 of it as a civilian software developer for Air Force logistics under the MAC, AMC, and TransCom commands. Later I switched to Healthcare for a variety of clients and employers on Epic systems software, ending at Houston Methodist Hospital in 2021.

Prior to my Air Force jobs I worked on General Ledger, Job Cost, and Inventory software development. The last part of my career was back to producing reports, mostly billing and accounting, in the medical area. I know my way around databases and spreadsheets.

My goal is to assure the assets, liabilities, income, expense, and budgeting for the club are accurately tabulated and correctly reported, and, as much as possible, to avoid any crisis or drama due to lack of reporting.

Blake Alley N5BAA – Candidate for Recording Secretary

I'm Blake Alley, N5BAA, currently running for the BVARC Recording Secretary position. As far as my club experiences go, I have been the founder and former president of the N5HCU Husky Amateur Radio Club at HCU and worked on BVARC videography and photography for club events in the past.

I have prior experience with professional videography, photography, content archival, technical production for live events, engineering drafting, and technical documentation.

As Recording Secretary, I strive to assist BVARC by creating, organizing, and maintaining records as well as recording and publishing videos and documentation of general meeting lectures for the purposes of education and entertainment for both club members and the public.

Lee Glassman WA5LEE – Candidate for 2-year Director

I am writing to express my interest in running for the 2-year Director Position in BVARC.

I have been licensed as a Ham Radio Operator since 2006, shortly after retiring as a NY FireFighter/Paramedic and moving to PA from NY. I have lived in TX since 2019.

I am currently a CISA/State certified Instructor in ICS/NIMS Communication, and I have made it my semi-retirement mission to further the skills of HAMs in Emergency Communications.

I currently hold State/Federal Certifications in COML, COMT, AUXCOMM, ITSL, RADO, FEMA PDS, and am currently certified as an EMT in both Texas and PA. I also am part of the Memorial Hermann LifeFlight Communications and Support team. I have served as coordinator for many local events such as the Buffalo Bayou Regatta and the MS150. As President of the Harris County Auxiliary Communications group, I lead a talented and well-trained group of Volunteers which assist HCOHSEM and other local and Statewide agencies during planned, as well as unplanned events.

I have a diverse range of experience in Ham Radio. I founded the PA State DMR group/net. I was the National Net Director for SATERN and currently provide Net Control for PA State, TX State DMR, TX State HF ARES SSB Net, and am an Assistant EC for STX ARES District 14NW, where I am the Net Manager.

I believe my broad range of experience would be of benefit to the BVARC Club, as my most fervent goal is to promote and grow Ham Radio Operators in the role of USEFUL and NEEDED resources in this day and age of new technology and methodology.

I appreciate your support as we continue to make BVARC the best Ham club in Texas!

Ham Exam Question

How can the output voltage of a multiple-turn receiving loop antenna be increased?

- A. By reducing the permeability of the loop shield*
- B. By utilizing high impedance wire for the coupling loop*
- C. By increasing the number of turns and/or the area enclosed by the loop*
- D. All these choices are correct*



The Greater Houston HamFest Presents The ARRL Texas State Convention

Note Date Change for 2026 - 2-20 & 2-21



Tickets:

On-line - \$10
At the Door - \$15
Children 12 and under
Scouts, Military,
& First Responders
In Uniform - FREE
Tables - \$25
Tailgate - \$5

When

Friday February 20th, 2026
12 PM to 6 PM
Saturday February 21st, 2026
8AM to 3PM

*Door Prizes Every half hour
starting at 9:00 am!!*

Sponsors/Vendors

- * Ham Radio Outlet
- * The SignMan of Baton Rouge
- * ABR Industries
- * EPO

Where:

Fort Bend County Fairgrounds
4310 TX- 36 S, Rosenberg, TX 77471
29°31'12" N 95°48'38" W

Raffle Prizes

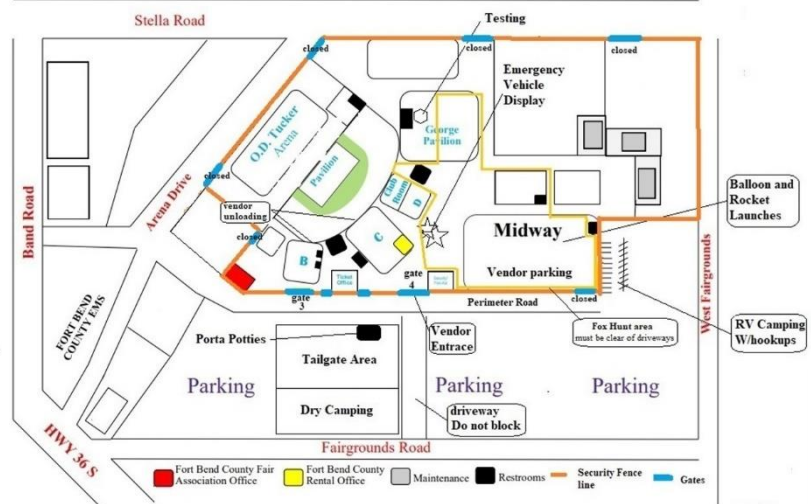
Single Ticket - \$5
Five Tickets - \$20

**Grand Prize
Prize info
coming soon!**

Guest Speaker

John Stratton, N5US
ARRL West Gulf Division Director

Radio Programming Classes
Testing & Balloon Launches
Overnight camping available
Free Shuttles to your car



Contact:

Chairman: Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
713-826-6917



[FB.com/groups/HoustonHamfest](https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoustonHamfest)



[Twitter.com/HoustonHamfest](https://twitter.com/HoustonHamfest)

www.HoustonHamfest.org www.HoustonHamfest.org

Waves & Coffee –

Radio frequency photons

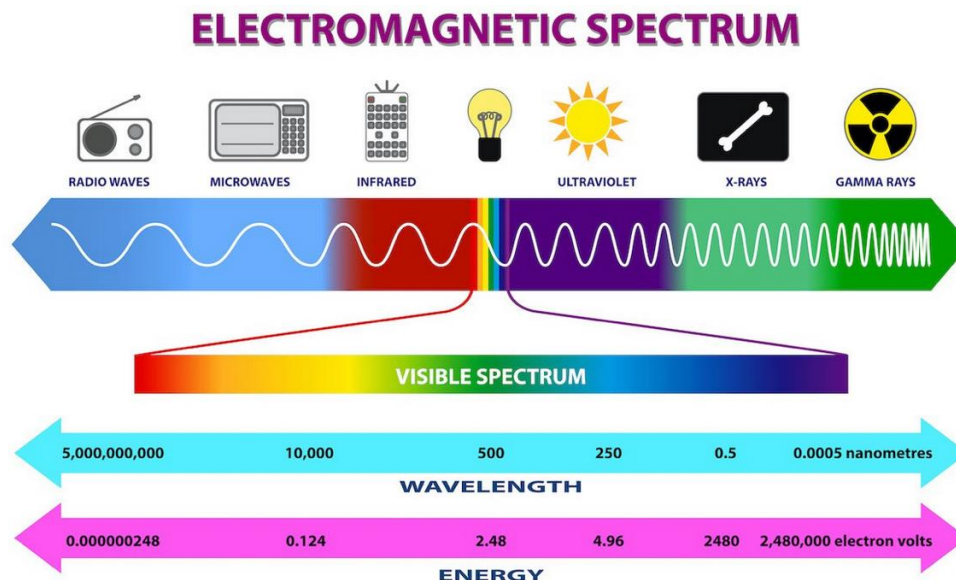
Is “Quantum Radio” a thing?

By Stephen W2WF

Radio operators are used to thinking in terms of wavelengths, frequencies, and as we saw previously, even the speed of light “c”. These quantities come into play when we discuss radio waves which are well explained in a theory called: Classical Electromagnetic theory. But aren’t electromagnetic phenomena also explained in terms of photons? Yes, indeed they are, so let’s delve into this question.

What we learned in school about particles may not have been the complete story. Radio waves do indeed typically behave like waves; however, they can sometimes behave like particles called photons. This split personality is known as the “wave-particle duality” and is a fascinating topic.

As a starting point we’ll recall that electromagnetic waves span a large range of wavelengths and frequencies. They extend from radio waves to infrared, to visible light, to ultraviolet, and even x-rays and gamma rays. In certain parts of this spectrum, it’s better to treat them as waves and in others as particles. It really depends on what we use to measure them and on the energy of the photons themselves.



But when to use waves and when to use photons? Also, for radio frequencies, do photons exist? To look into these questions, please read the full article located at <https://bvarc.org/home/tech-downloads/>



Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Minutes



September 7th, 2025 @ 5:30pm via Video Conference

Board Members

President – Mike Hardwick – N5VCX	Vice President – Kori Rahman – WX5KR
Treasurer – Dave Ely – N5EKW	1 Year At-Large – Robert Polinski, KD5YVQ
2 Year At-Large – Terry Leatherland – K5PGF	2 Year At-Large – Kirc Breden – N5XJB
Secretary – Jeff Greer – W5JEF	

Board of Directors Meeting

- ❖ Establish Quorum – Established.
- ❖ Call Meeting to Order – 5:35 p.m.
- ❖ Opening Statement – The President thanked those in attendance for coming.
- ❖ Agenda Review – Approved.
- ❖ Treasurer’s Report – Approved after corrections.
- ❖ Secretary’s Report – One renewal in mailbox; need to send renewal reminders.
- ❖ Old Business
 - Financial Committee
- ❖ Programs
 - September – Richard Bonica, Emergency Communications
 - October – Ice Cream Social, Rick Hiller
 - November – Elections and Chili Supper
 - December – Homebrew Night
 - January – TBD
 - February - TBD
- ❖ Committees
 - Newsletter
 - Donovan working newsletter.
 - Historical Archives
 - Eddie is in process of putting up archival material on the website. 6 GB of data there now.
 - By-Laws
 - Finance
 - Events and Membership
 - Food Team
 - Ice cream social, chili supper
 - Club Website – Eddie working updates; see “New Business,” below for data storage discussion.
 - Parks on the Air
 - Elmer/ Subject Matter Experts
 - Antenna classes in the works. Need someone to take the “build” portion; Rick can teach the theory.
 - Museum Ships Wknd – Mark Janzer
 - Updates from IZO: going to try to do a lunch with the “band of 6.”
 - National event in November that involves ham radio; opportunity to promote BVARC to the Museum.
 - Field Day – Richard Bonica
 - Winter Field Day
 - Greater Houston HamFest – February dates nailed down after almost losing those dates, too.

- GHF Website – John Holmes; Mike and Eddie have spoken with him. Uses very little data storage.
- Banquet – No banquet in 2025; could happen next year (even early next year).
- ❖ New Business
 - BVARC.org website storage
 - Currently at 20 GB; an extra 10 is \$60/yr. Already have 6 GB of historical archives.
 - Kori and Eddie to investigate alternatives to discuss next mtg. Motion to approve the spend shelved pending investigation of alternatives.
 - 2027 Hamfest – Deposit for Fort Bend County Fairgrounds needed by end of Sept. 2026
 - Motion to approve the spend (\$9,825.00). Good deal of discussion about upfront cost and BVARC finances, availability/practicality of alternate venues, cost of union labor costs at other places, etc. Approved.
 - Newsletter listed Recording Secretary/Corresponding Secretary position(s) – “Secretary” be one or two positions (Recording Secretary/Corresponding Secretary); need to get info to people who might want to run for one or both positions.
 - Chuck heading Election Committee
- ❖ Next Meetings – Pursuant to Article V Section G #1 of the Club By-Laws
 - Sunday, October 5th, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom [*rescheduled to 7:00 PM Tuesday, October 7, 2025, via Zoom – ed.*]
- ❖ Closing Statement(s) – The President thanked those in attendance for a productive meeting.
- ❖ Meeting Adjournment - 6:57 p.m.

Recorded by: Jeff Greer, W5JEF



SEPTEMBER 2025 VE - FCC TESTING SESSION RESULTS

For the Spetember 6th test session, at Bayland - we had 3 candidates and conducted 5 tests

New Licensee:

J. Wendt (General) W3NDT

Upgraded:

A. Walker (Extra) N8QR

VEs in attendance – K5GOL, K5LJ, KF5UXP, and KG4NDS – **THANKS!**

Congratulations to All!

The next BVARC test session will be at the Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston TX 77074, on Saturday October 4th, starting at 10:30.

Pre-registration is required.

For new licensees the testing fee, paid at the session is \$15. An additional \$35 license fee (totaling \$50), will be collected by the FCC separately for new, renewal and vanity calls. License upgrades **do not** pay the added \$35 fee, just the \$15 session fee.

YOUTH LICENSING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The ARRL has created a youth program (18 and under) to defray the licensing costs to a total of \$5 (deducting the \$35 increase and \$10 off the \$15 VE session fee). See: <http://www.arrl.org/youth-licensing-grant-program>

Also, BVARC is implementing its own program for **youth** licensing. We'll provide a **new VHF/UHF transceiver (Baofeng, limited supply)** at the VE session, to youth that successfully pass their Technician test. The HT's are a very generous donation (Dec. '23) from a BVARC member, THANKS!

Bottom line, a young person for \$5, can walk into a test session and walk out with a new radio and a pending license.

Details for candidates are found at <https://bvarc.org/home/ham-radio-license-testing-houston/>

Pre-register to attend a test session at: <https://hamstudy.org/sessions/arrl/77008/inperson>

Become a VE! <https://www.arrl.org/become-an-arrl-ve>

For questions, Email Mark Janzer, K5MGJ at (k5mgj@yahoo.com).

BVARC Rag

Chew Net

Below is the BVARC Rag Chew Net check-in information:



08/27/25, K5LKJ (NCS), K5DBL (Manvel), KI5HOC, W5ICR, W5RH, WA5CYI, W5VOM, WD5L. (8 Check-ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 202, SN = 210, A = 8, K = 1, Band Rpt: FAIR

09/03/25, K5LKJ (NCS), W5RH, KI5HOC, K5RBC (Lake Jackson), W5ICR, K5LJ, WA5CYI. (7 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 180, SN = 128, A = 13, K = 2, Band Rpt: GOOD

09/10/25, K5LKJ (NCS), W5VOM, K5RBC (Lake Jackson), W5ICR, W5RH, KI5HOC, K5LJ, K5DBL (Manvel), KI5HC (League City), AI5XJ (Pasadena), WB5ITT (Beaumont), W5WES (Baytown). (12 Check-ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 120, SN = 59, A = 16, K = 2 / Band Rpt: GOOD,

09/17/25, K5LKJ (NCS), KA5LPH, K5RBC (Lake Jackson), W5ICR, K5LJ, W5LIC (Channelview). (6 Check-Ins) Solar Cycle 25: SFI = 147, SN = 119, A = 12, K = 2, Band Rpt: POOR

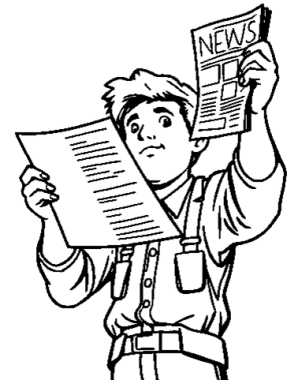
(M) = mobile (P) = Portable (R) = Relay (RCS) = remote controlled station (T) = telephone check-in

Net conditions have been POOR to GOOD this month. Fire up the rig and learn what others are doing and share your experiences. Come join in the conversation each Wednesday evening. Regards.

John K5LKJ

Have News for the BVARC BEACON?

The newsletter should include the news! What's going on in your Ham world? Want to announce any hamfests or sales, OTA events, other clubs' events, lunch groups in your area, presentations, or kit build sessions?



Applaud a fellow ham's achievements? Share your own homebrew projects, SK announcements, or anything else hams should know. Send submissions to dballi@mail.com.

2025 Club Officers

President (2024-2025)

Michael Hardwick N5VCX n5vcx@att.net

Vice President (2025-2026)

Kori Rahman WX5KR kori113@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary (2025-2026)

Jeff Greer W5JEF greerjw@hotmail.com

Treasurer (2025-2026)

David Ely N5EKW davidely@prodigy.net

2 Year At-Large Board Member A (2024-2025)

Terry Leatherland K5PGF k5pgf@yahoo.com

2 Year At-Large Board Member B (2025-2026)

Kirc Breden N5XJB n5xjb@yahoo.com

1 Year At Large (2025)

Robert Polinski KD5YVQ kd5yvq@arrl.net

Ham Exam Answer: C. By increasing the number of turns and/or the area enclosed by the loop.

Advertising in the BVARC BEACON

Business card sized ads are \$10 per month or six months for \$50.

Half page ads are \$25 per month, \$125 for six months, or \$250 per year.

Full page ads are \$50 per month, \$250 for six months, or \$500 per year.

BVARC EATS

Saturday Breakfast 6:30 AM, IHOP, 12725 Southwest Fwy, Stafford TX 77477

Wednesday Lunch Bunch 11 AM to Noon, Luby's Cafeteria, 10575 W Airport Blvd, Stafford TX 77477

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

This newsletter, the BVARC BEACON, is a monthly publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club. For a full listing of officers and information about BVARC, please go to www.bvarc.org. Detailed information will be published in the BEACON every 3 or 4 months. Similarly, the "Eating Schedule" will be published every 3 or 4 months unless there is a change.

General membership dues are \$25 per year, with student dues \$10 per year, additional family members \$5 per member per year.

Club meetings are both in-person and via Zoom on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. If you have signed up for the email reflector, you will receive notice and the attendance password, etc. It will also be on the website a few days beforehand.

BVARC amateur radio testing takes place typically on the Saturday before the 2nd Thursday of each month at 10:30 AM.

Location: Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston, 77074. **Before going** please check the BVARC website for any changes.

A Public Service Net is held each Monday at 8 PM on the 146.94 (minus offset, PL 167.9 tone) repeater.

A "Stir Crazy Net" is also held weekdays at 12 Noon on the 146.94 (minus offset, PL 167.9 tone) repeater.

A rag chew net is held each Wednesday at 7 PM on 3910 kHz +/- 3 kHz.

To obtain information about joining BVARC or its activities, see the BVARC website: www.bvarc.org.

Other contacts:

BVARC President Mike Hardwick N5VCX n5vcx@att.net,

Newsletter Editor Donovan Balli KG5BDZ dballi@mail.com,

Editor Emeritus John Chauvin K5IZO k5izo@yahoo.com.

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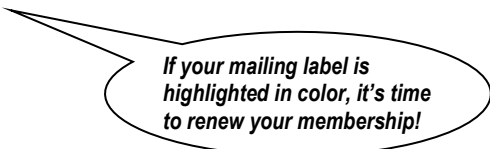
**BRAZOS VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 2997
SUGAR LAND, TX 77487-2997**

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Board of Directors Meeting – 7:00 PM Tuesday, October 7, 2025, via Zoom

General membership Meeting – 7:30 PM Thursday, October 9, 2025, 16005 Bellaire Blvd, Houston TX 77083



*If your mailing label is
highlighted in color, it's time
to renew your membership!*