

**President**

Terry Allison, K5TDA

**Vice President**

Jim Fowler, KD5KBU

**Secretary**

Bill Baker, W5ATO

**Treasurer**

Angie Otoupal, N5MVV

## Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, AD5BB

June, 2010

Alpine, Texas

### MEETING MINUTES, JUNE 2010

June 8, 2010

People attended. Minutes were read. Treasurer's report was given.

Bill, W5ATO asked for volunteers to sign up to help with the K5N 6-meter gridpedition which will be June 29-July 2.

Mike Ward, NW5M, Fire Marshall for Jeff Davis County, announced that Jeff Davis County has a new 55 foot antenna tower trailer. The unit has an on board power generator and a motorized system to tilt and telescope the tower. It is mounted on a 15,000 lb. GVWR bumper pull trailer and requires a **heavy duty** ¾ ton tow vehicle minimum. One ton tow vehicle is recommended. The trailer has 4 heavy duty out-rigger beams that slide out and 4 heavy duty trailer jacks that attach to the out-rigger beams. In this configuration the tower is good for free standing in winds up to 79 mph. It also carries 3 guy anchor augers and provisions on the tower for guy wires, and when properly set up, this raises the wind rating to 139 mph. winds.

Mike says the tower is for emergency portable communications for public service, which includes public civilian events. He also noted that when such emergencies occur requiring the use of the tower, it is most likely that Amateur Emergency Radio Service (ARES) will be activated. Mike sees Field Day as a good opportunity to give the tower an annual inspection and operating workshop.

Bill, KE5OG discussed other plans for Field Day, most of which will be the regular plan we have followed for the past several years. We will put the JD Tower into service on the Sideband station at the Double Diamond Pavilion, and we will also set up our manual crank up tower trailer for the CW station.

**THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT OF THE WHOLE MEETING!** ... If you intend to eat from the community buffets at Field Day, GET YOUR ORDER IN NOW, BEFORE JUNE 17. Friday night supper, 3 meals Saturday, breakfast and lunch Sunday is \$30.00 per member, one 12 pack soft drink donation and one 12 pack water donation. If you bring family members or guests, whether they eat 1 meal or all 6, their fee is \$10.00 per person. Payment due before or when you arrive at Field Day.

**IF YOU DO NOT SIGN UP FOR MEALS BY JUNE 17**, the fee will be \$10.00 per person, per meal, provided there is food left.

Contact Bob Ward, WA5ROE at True Value (432)-837-2061, or wa5roe@juno.com to make your reservations.

### FIELD DAY 2010

As stated above, this year's Field Day will be much the same as in recent years. One sideband station, one CW station, a GOTA station and probably a 6-meter station.

There will be 2 portable antenna towers. A new 55 foot tower belonging to Jeff Davis County for the sideband station, and our own 50 foot tower for the CW station.

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### K5N DL88 GRID EXPEDITION

Bill Baker, W5ATO

On Sunday, May 30, I made the trip down to Big Bend National Park, to the Talley campsite number 2 where the K5N 6-meter Gridpedition will operate from June 29 to July 1. That is the rare DL88 grid. On July 2 they will operate from somewhere in DL89wx. They need some of us to pass information between them and the Internet via our repeater system. My trip and the signal reports of those who monitored the system for me proved that we have coverage at the Talley 2 location. It is multi-path and while the RF signal was only about an s1 to s2, the audio was 100% copy with some path loss noise. I would say 20% noise and 80% audio. Very easy copy even for me. We also verified there is a simplex path from Talley 2 to KB5ROB in Terlingua, as well as a simplex path to K5TDA in the Davis Mountains Resort. Both of those contacts were impressive. 36 miles across the hills to Terlingua and 124 miles to the Davis Mountains Resort.

With a 50 watt mobile and a 5/8 wavelength antenna, we determined we have useable coverage on the old River Road in the park from the west end near Castolon to a little east of the Johnson Ranch. Beyond that point it becomes intermittent and multi-path phasing becomes more noticeable when you can get a signal. At Talley 2 the campsite is on a slight rise and there is a reliable path at that location. But when you enter Talley road the signal is almost not there. The further east you go on the river road from there I found only a few spots where the signal was usable until within a mile or two of the Rio Grande highway.

The K5N crew is selecting the Internet locations they will want us to post to, making arrangements with the site administrators, and creating accounts and log ins for us to post their messages for them. They will be using a 50 watt mobile and a 4 element beam to insure they get a good signal out to the 146.820 repeater.

They expect they will probably need the most help with Internet postings from 8-9 AM and 8-9 PM, or 8:00-9:00 local and 20:00-21:00 local. But as they will be able to have 2-meter coverage right there at their site, we can announce when we are monitoring and when we are QRT, to let them know we are available. We can also provide them with Alpine phone numbers (no cell phones,) and give them instructions on using the auto-patch if the band opens up wide and no one is monitoring the 2-meter.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Terry Allison, K5TDA

My first ham radio Field Day was in 1970 or 71 with the Big Spring Amateur Radio Club. They had set up a station in the parking lot of a local shopping center. The purpose apparently was to expose the local townspeople to Ham Radio. I do not remember operating with them that year but I did come away with the knowledge that some operators could sure make a lot more contacts using the same radio and antenna than others did. I don't think I participated in any more Field Days until 1977, again with the Big Spring Amateur Radio Club. This time they had gone all out and put a station up on the mountain at the state park. My college roommate and myself operated heavily in that one and had a blast. It is the only FD I have ever been in where 10 meters opened almost continuously for the entire period and almost all of our contacts were made on 10. As fast as we could work em.

The next year was a bit different. We used the Texas A&M University Radio Club call, W5AC and went class 2C. That is two transmitter, mobile. There were 8 or 9 of us, in two cars and the route was from College Station to Beaumont, to New Orleans, then north to Jackson Mississippi, then Memphis, then back to Texarkana and College Station. Hint: If you want to kick some mobile FD butt, figure out how to operate the entire thing from the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway. That FD has some stories that go with it. We even made it into QST: November 1978, bottom of page 75. (If you are an ARRL member and registered on their website you can view it by looking for the QST Field Day Result Article for that year):

<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-periodicals-archive-search>

That DX sign (or one looking suspiciously like it) now hangs in the Shack at W5AC.

From that time on Field Day for me has been a time to reunite with old friends and do a lot of visiting and some operating. The location moved around for several years in the 80s and finally settled onto a friend's ranch southwest of Dallas, near the Dinosaur Valley State Park. The numbers of operators have ranged from the 20s down to 4 or 5 depending on the year. We worked hard for several years, running QRP all CW and using bonus satellite stations and everything else we could do to increase our score. And we "won" the class 1A battery a couple of times. (The arch enemy was a group operating from a salt water island off Florida). As time went along we started

operating more for fun than score and added in SSB, and finally the last few years we started running a KW and going for the highest "rate" possible. Accommodations over the years have gone from tents to RVs and the power source from solar panels to Diesel generators. There were a couple of years where some of us were camped on the ranch for over a week because it took that long to get all the visiting in. That group has not gotten together the last couple of years due to a dispute over the ownership of the land, but I hear that may be settled in time for FD, 2011.

And I think for most of us, that is the essence of Field Day. Get away from the normal routine. Set up some radio gear, something different. Join up with friends. Operate some, visit some, eat a lot. And unlike Big Spring back in 1970, invite those new hams and interested observers to get on the air. Because, then, they too will be hooked on Field Day.

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## FROM THE EDITOR

Bill Baker, W5ATO

This month's Newsletter is short and to the point. I will be out of town from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> and as soon as I get back, even before, we will be preparing for Field Day, and right after that we will be supporting the K5N 6-meter Gridpedition. So I have to get this letter out quick.

So 2 things. Everyone that possibly can, please monitor the repeater system from June 29 to July 2 to help the 6-meter folks pass information to the Internet. If you don't know how to get the info on the Internet, call some of us on the calling tree list until you find someone that can.

**MOST IMPORTANT POINT OF ALL! ...** If you intend to eat from the community buffets at Field Day, **GET YOUR ORDER IN NOW, BEFORE JUNE 17.** Friday night supper, 3 meals Saturday, breakfast and lunch Sunday is \$30.00 per member, one 12 pack soft drink donation and one 12 pack water donation. If you bring family members or guests, whether they eat 1 meal or all 6, their fee is \$10.00 per person. Payment due before or when you arrive at Field Day.

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## THE BARK

Newsletter of the BBARC

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club  
1402 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
Alpine, Texas 79830

Publisher: Bob Ward, WA5ROE  
[wa5roe@juno.com](mailto:wa5roe@juno.com)  
Editor: Bill Baker, W5ATO  
[w5ato@arrl.net](mailto:w5ato@arrl.net) OR [w5ato.bill@verizon.net](mailto:w5ato.bill@verizon.net)

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## **BIG BEND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

<http://www.bigbendarc.com>

Meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at West Texas National Bank building in Alpine, 7:30 P.M. CST/CDT.

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### **MEMBERSHIP AND NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION**

Annual membership is Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 each year. Dues are \$36.00 per year for individual or individual & spouse. Membership allows you to vote at the monthly meetings and includes a subscription to the club newsletter.

Newsletter subscription only, without membership, is available for \$7.00 per calendar year. .

Newsletters are available by e-mail in .PDF format for members, subscribers, and courtesy recipients only. Send your e-mail address to [w5ato@arrl.net](mailto:w5ato@arrl.net) to be put on the list.

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### **ABOUT THE BBARC**

Founded December 17, 1974

ARRL affiliate since 1986

#### **Big Bend Emergency Net, 3.922 MHz**

Founded September 18, 1977

Meets every Sunday morning at 8:30 A.M. CST/CDT

Controlled net format. Welcomes new participants and visitors.

Established by Bob Ward, WA5ROE

Net Manager, Bob Ward, WA5ROE, [wa5roe@juno.com](mailto:wa5roe@juno.com)

#### **Big Bend 2-meter Net**

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)

Net Manager, Bill Roberts, W5NPR, [w5npr@texas-skies.com](mailto:w5npr@texas-skies.com)

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### **BBARC REPEATER SYSTEM**

**All repeaters are standard offsets. All repeaters require 146.2 Hz PL tone encoded on your transmit signal. All repeaters are linked.**

147.020+	Elephant Mt. south of Alpine. System hub.
146.620-	Ft. Davis located at McDonald Observatory
146.720-	Alpine, Twin Sisters Peaks
146.820-	Terlingua
146.920-	Glass Mountains, Alpine / Ft. Stockton.

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### **BBARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**June 26-27, 2010, Sat-Sun**

Field Day

**June 29 - July 2**

K5N Grid Activation in Big Bend National Park

**July 4, 2010, Sunday**

JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> HAMBURGER BOOTH, Kokernot Park

**July 13, 2010, Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.**

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank, Alpine

**August 10, 2010, Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.**

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank, Alpine

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**September 14, 2010, Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.**  
BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank, Alpine

**September 18-19, 2010, Sat-Sun**

Cycle fest, Ft. Davis

**October 12, 2010, Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.**

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank, Alpine

**October 23, 2010, Saturday**

Terlingua National Dual Sport Ride  
Trail Riders of Houston Motorcycle Club

**November 9, 2010, Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.**

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank, Alpine

**December 14, 2010, Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.**

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank, Alpine

**January 11, 2011, Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.**

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank, Alpine

**January 16, 2011, Sunday**

Big Bend Ultra 50 Run, Big Bend National Park

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