

President

Jim Fowler, KD5KBU

Vice President

Jim Glasscock, WA5JBG

**Secretary**

Chuck Dobbins, KA5PVB

Treasurer

Angie Otoupal, N5MVV

Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, AD5BB

April, 2011

Alpine, Texas

MEETING NOTES, MARCH, 2011

April 12, 2011

Secretary Chuck Dobbins, KA5PVB conducted the meeting on short notice.

Bill, W5ATO mentioned that work needs to be done at the Glass Mountains repeater site to guy the tower and remount the antenna. The repeater system hub on Elephant Mountain has been offered a new location on Elephant Mountain and that a small group needs to look into the offer further, and possibly accept the offer and move the system later this year.

Dave, N5DO distributed copies of the emergency calling tree used to contact members to activate in emergencies, and asked everyone to check their information and notify him of any corrections that need to be made.

Bill, W5ATO motioned to the club that the Emergency Communications RV was moved to his home after the passing of Bob Ayer, KA1AAJ (sk) a little over a year ago. Bill asked the club members to give thoughts to finding a new location to store the RV and discuss it at the next meeting.

Barb, KM5VM announced that reservations have been secured for the Double Diamond Pavilion for Field Day 2011. She noted that when Ralph Meriwether passed away last year that his daughter became owner of the facility and she wished to honor the arrangements her father had made with the BBARC for so many years. The reservation is from Tuesday, June 21 to Tuesday, June 28.

Vice President Jim Glasscock, WA5JBG announced that due to his health and travel situations, he is concerned that he will not be able to make many of the meetings. He asked the board consider his resignation and filling the VP vacancy.

Program "COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS"

Bob Ward, WA5ROE, Barb Stone, KM5VM, Bill Roberts W5NPR, and Bill Baker W5ATO, gave a panel discussion on various types of radio nets.

Ward discussed the history of the Big Bend Emergency Net on 3.922 MHz. It was founded on September 18, 1977 and has met every Sunday morning since then. The Sunday nets do a roll call check in and then open a round table discussion. They take visiting stations for check in and new net members may join just by checking in and asking to be put on the roster. Any time a major emergency exists in West Texas they know to check in on

3.922. The Big Bend Emergency Net has been activated for the Saragossa Tornado in May of 1987, the Alpine earthquake in April of 1995, and the Del Rio flood in August of 1998.

Stone talked about the National Traffic Net systems. Traffic nets have been in existence since the 19 teens and are used to deliver messages from and to almost anywhere in the world. While these messages are passed through amateur radio HF frequencies, they may also be delivered by various other means such as telephone in order to reach their final destination.

Roberts discussed the Big Bend 2-meter Net and its purpose to check the repeater systems equipment, individual's station equipment, provide a weekly discussion group and provide a platform for operators to exercise the directed net format and give them the opportunity to direct a net in a casual environment for training and practice.

Baker talked about using VHF/UHF safety nets for public service at public events. He noted that these events are usually in relatively small, defined areas making the VHF/UHF bands ideal for handling communications, whereas emergency and disaster communications are more likely to require the longer range afforded by the HF bands.

Upcoming Programs

May 10, "ROCK HOUSE AND ROPER FIRES
AFTER-ACTION CRITIQUE"

June 14, "HAM RADIO FUN -- FIELD DAY 2011"

July 12, "EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW, BUT
WERE AFRAID TO ASK ABOUT THE BBARC REPEATER
SYSTEM"

August 9, "THE FINAL COURTESY OF A QSO IS A QSL
CARD -- QSL CARDS AND ONLINE
QSLING" (tentative)

September 13, "BLACK BOX RADIO -- SOFTWARE
DEFINED RADIO DEMONSTRATION" (tentative)

October 11, TBA

November 8, TBA

December 13, "SILENT AUCTION"

Hams Provide Communications Support During West Texas Wildfires

Reprinted with permission ARRL Web April 14, 2011.



On April 9 at 4:15 PM (CDT), ARRL West Texas District 5 Emergency Coordinator Bob Ward, WA5ROE, received a call from Jeff Davis County (Texas) Fire Marshal Stewart Billingsley, N5HXZ.

Billingsley informed Ward that a fire had begun in the West Texas town of Marfa and was rapidly approaching Fort Davis, 22 miles to the northeast.

“Stewart asked me to call the National Weather Service to get it on the alert system, as well as the AM and FM radio stations in Alpine,” Ward told the ARRL. “He wanted it broadcast over the radio stations that he needed the Mano Prieto and Fort Davis Estates sub-divisions evacuated. People in the area know that when an emergency happens, they need to tune into these stations for the latest information. This was the Rock House Fire. At the same time, another fire, the Roper Fire, had started on the eastern edge of Alpine.”

Ward contacted the NWS and the radio stations and then put out a call on 2 meters, asking for Alpine amateurs to report to the Emergency Operations Center in Brewster County. “When I arrived, ARRL Brewster County Emergency Coordinator David Cockrum, N5DO, and Brewster County Emergency Management Coordinator Tom Santry were there. Tom asked us to activate a net on the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club repeater system.”

Ward said that a ham was dispatched to Jeff Davis County -- 26 miles to the northwest -- to assist ARRL Jeff Davis County Emergency Coordinator Jim Fowler, KD5KBU: “Jim, in addition to being the EC for Jeff Davis County, is also with their fire department, so he was dealing with a lot of things. We also sent hams to assist at the Alpine Police Department and the dispatch in Brewster County, as well as at the radio stations. Due to the fire, there was no electricity or phone service, so hams at the police department and dispatch handled traffic. The ham at the radio station received messages from the Emergency Operations Center in Brewster County concerning public safety, highway closures and evacuations to be broadcast over the air.”

Ward explained that later that day, the repeater system was linked to the West Texas repeater system to handle traffic for the American Red Cross. “We also provided phone patches for American Electric Power, the local electric company, as they came in to install a large generator to supply power to the Fort Davis area,” he said. “We finally secured our net at noon on April 11.”

As of April 13, the 30,000 acre Roper Fire is completely contained, but the 108,000 acre Rock House Fire is only 60 percent contained. According to Terry Allison, K5TDA, a firefighter in Alpine, about 30 houses and two businesses in Fort Davis were destroyed by the fire, while two houses in Marfa were destroyed. County, State and Federal firefighters are in control of the operation and no further Amateur Radio involvement has been requested.

HAMMERFEST SAFETY NET STATIONS SEE FIRE APPROACHING; SWITCH TO EMERGENCY NET IMMEDIATELY, EFFICIENTLY, AND EFFECTIVELY

Hammerfest is a 2 day competitive event composed of three separate events. Saturday morning was a hill climb event from Prude Ranch to the Mc Donald Observatory at the top of Mt. Locke. Saturday afternoon was a time trial from the County Park on the south edge of Ft. Davis, south on state highway 17 then west on state highway 166 for a few miles, and return to the start. Riders leave one at a time at intervals and compete against the clock. Sunday was to be the 75 mile race from Prude Ranch, south to Ft. Davis, then south to SH 166, west and then north around the SH 166 Scenic Loop, and then south on SH 118, past Mc Donald Observatory and back to Prude Ranch.

Saturday afternoon, April 9, 2011, the BBARC was providing a public service safety net for this event, as we do every year. Time trials were in progress when the Rock House Fire forced the Hammerfest event to shut down and evacuate.

By: Jim Fowler, KD5KBU, Jeff Davis County ARES EC

During the Rockhouse Fire I acted as the radio dispatcher for the department. I also fielded phone calls and acted as the spokesperson for the department to the news media.

It is extremely difficult to handle communications when you know your home is immediately threatened by fire. Myself and a few other hams were working the Hammerfest Bicycle Race when the fire started. About an hour into the fire the race course and the Fort Davis Estate (where my wife and I have our home) were threaten by the advancing flames. We notified the race officials that we were canceling the race for safety reasons and I immediately went to my house where we had to evacuate the pets as well as my wife's elderly mother who was living with us.

We didn't bother trying to gather up the valuable items even though we had prepared for such an event many years ago when we first moved to the Estates. The fire was just too fast moving and there was too much work to get Vickie's mom out. To add to our problems we had family members coming to Fort Davis that afternoon. Fortunately our cousin was staying with us so we could leave her with mom, and Vickie could locate the incoming family members.



After we evacuated I went down to the fire station and handled the public safety radio and telephone. Thank goodness Luke (N5HXZ) had already contacted Bob Ward (WA5ROE). Bob got ham operators to respond to the station. The hams

handled communications between the Jeff Davis EOC and the Brewster County EOC which was a great help when the landlines and cell phones went out. Their effort relieved me of a great deal of work and allowed me to handle the fire department side of communications.

The stress of having your home and family being in immediate danger and the desire to respond to the fire station in order to assist others is tremendous. As emergency services providers both the firefighters and the ham radio operators are taught that your family comes first. Both Vickie and I have the training (firefighting, EMS, and ham radio operations) so we could properly prioritize what we needed to do. There was very little indecision on our part about what were the important tasks. Nevertheless, I hope never to have to go through such an event again.

By: Bill Roberts, W5NPR

I was stationed at the turn-around near Point of Rocks for the bicycle race. The wind was so strong, I wondered how the cyclists could stay upright. I noticed smoke in the direction of Marfa. There was a Deputy stationed at the turn-around, and we were discussing the smoke, and how quickly the volume of smoke increased. We discussed the possibility of the race being cancelled, and how much time could pass before the decision was made. At the time, our location did not seem to be threatened, but the Mano Prieto subdivision between Marfa and Fort Davis, was obviously in the path of the fire.

About that time, the word came from Jim KD5KBU that the race had been cancelled, and that we should make sure everyone was off the road. The closer we got to HWY 17 and the fire, the slower it seemed like the clearing of riders off the road was taking. Then the word came from Jim KD5KBU that Fort Davis Estates was being evacuated, and that Luke N5HXZ was leaving the fire station to try to protect his house. Someone was needed to monitor 2-meters and take messages at the fire station. I called in and told Jim I would handle the 2-meter radio.

Soon after arriving at the fire station, word came that Sunny Glen was also being evacuated, but that HWY 118 south to Alpine was closed, and also HWY 17 to Marfa. The only way I could get to Alpine was north to Balmorhea, and that would

take too long to even consider. I called my wife, and told her to leave the house and drive to Alpine. She asked what she should try to take from the house, but I told her that if the fire was moving as fast toward Alpine as it was in Fort Davis, she needed to just get in the car and go.

Noise in the small radio room soon made monitoring the 2-meter radio very difficult, so I moved to my car to monitor my mobile radio. Soon thereafter, the word came that the fire had moved across HWY 118, and the road was open. I told Jim KD5KBU, I was going to Alpine to check on my house, and I think Dick W5DWI and Lora W5JUW took over the 2-meter operations in Fort Davis. Before arriving in Alpine, I received word that the fire had changed direction, and that Sunny Glen was no longer in danger.

Sunday morning, I was asked to assist a Red Cross Damage Assessment Team, which after a slow start, took until about 6:00 PM that evening. We visited 17 homes that had been destroyed, and 6 others with out-building, barns, etc., and every day since, I hear of others that we did not see that day.

I was raised on a ranch east of Marfa and fires were an annual event. I also was a member of the Marfa Volunteer Fire Department for 26 years, and this was the worst I have ever experienced.

By: Dick Hawkins, W5DWI

My wife Lora, W5JUW and I were stationed at the finish line for the time trials. Race director David Ham, KE5FEJ was at our location. Jim Fowler, KD5KBU of the Ft. Davis Volunteer Fire Department, was Net Control. Bill Roberts, W5NPR was stationed at the turn around point near the Point of Rocks rest stop on Highway 166.

Shortly before 4:00 P.M. we had noticed smoke to the south-west. Possibly 4 miles out. I checked with Billy, W5NPR and he was seeing the same. We noticed it seemed to be getting larger and then I began to see flames. I pointed this out to David Ham and contacted Net Control. Jim was aware of the fire and advised we should tell David we need to shut down the event and clear the area. David agreed and said to do it.



© Bill Roberts, 2011

Used with permission.



© Dick Hawkins, 2011

Rockhouse Fire moves in on Hammerfest course.
Used with permission.

I notified Bill Roberts and he worked from the turn around and proceeded back to the start line, stopping and turning

riders around as he went. Lora and I headed out in the outbound direction of the course, stopping and turning participants back to Ft. Davis as we went. When I could see Roberts and the riders he was sweeping back to town, I turned around and followed the group I had turned around and Roberts brought up the rear following us all. By this time the fire looked to be only about a mile away from us and moving in our direction. We escorted the riders on into Ft. Davis and they loaded up and continued on to Prude Ranch and eventually on home, without incident.

By this time, Fowler had been called into the Jeff Davis VFD for duty, and in turn he called on Roberts to man the 2-meter HAM station at the Ft. Davis fire station for ARES emergency net.

In the meantime, Lora and I headed back to Alpine. We received reports that a call had come into Brewster County SO that someone saw smoke that seemed to be in the area of Double Diamond or Loma del Norte near our QTH. Dave, KF5HBQ and Peg, KE5YCW, who had been monitoring Hammerfest at their home in Double Diamond volunteered to go to my QTH and check on our family members there. As it turned out, that report was the Hill Top fire on the East side of Alpine and 10 miles north of our home. About the same time the Roper Fire broke out about 4 miles east of the Hill Top fire.

Then a report came in that a fire was burning 3 miles west of the Sunny Glen addition of Alpine and moving east and Sunny Glen was being evacuated. Bill Roberts' QTH is in Sunny Glenn and his wife was there at home.

I sent Lora on home and I returned to Ft. Davis to relieve Roberts so he could meet up with his wife in Alpine.

By the time I returned to Ft. Davis, SH 118 between Alpine and Ft. Davis was being closed down in two different locations as the Rock House fire moved across the highway. Eventually I was able to get back through to relieve Roberts, but on his return trip, the highway was shut down again.

In the meantime the fire that was moving towards Sunny Glen had turned north and Sunny Glenn residents were allowed to return home.

By: Bill Baker, W5ATO

I was to take my Mother and visit family in Ft. Stockton Saturday afternoon. I had committed to support communications for the all day Hammerfest race Sunday.

Monitoring the Hammerfest communications as I was getting ready, I heard something about a fire near Marfa, about 26 miles southwest of Ft. Davis. Just before I left my house I heard net control, Jim KD5KBU, calling to evacuate everyone on the course. By the time I got to my Mother's house, about 10-15 minutes later, Bob WA5ROE, was activating an emergency net from the Brewster county EOC. I told my Mother she may have to go to Ft. Stockton without me. Sure enough, Bob was still looking for someone to post at the Brewster County Sheriff's Office to link with the County Emergency Coordinator station at the EOC. I took that post and told my Mother to go on.

About this time two other fires were building east of Alpine. One small one that was put out quickly called the Hill Top Fire, the other was the Roper Fire that threatened US highways 67 and 90 east of town. I got a cell phone call, after a few attempts, from my mother that the highways to Ft. Stockton had been closed due to the fire. By this time cell phone circuits

were overloading and it would take several attempts to successfully complete a cell phone connection on the Alpine cells.

Operators were dispatched to other Alpine locations, Bill KE5OG went to the Alpine P.D. as did Dave N5DO at first. Jim N5JOE and Dave KF5HBQ were sent to the Alpine Civic Center that had been set up to receive evacuees.

Two or three other traffic messages were passed between the EOC and the S.O. I don't recall any traffic messages from the P.D. or Civic Center other than making sure operators were on site and able to communicate and was there any activity to report.

As it turned out, soon after evacuations of Sunny Glenn began, the winds changed directions and drove the fire away from Sunny Glen to the north towards the Miter Peak area.

The most active traffic was between Brewster EOC and Jeff Davis EOC concerning highway closings between Ft. Davis and Alpine to the south, and Balmorhea to the north of Ft. Davis, along with reports of highway closings east and north of Alpine due to the Roper fire less frequently.

After about 4 hours or so the focus of emergency communications needs shifted mainly to Brewster county and Jeff Davis County EOCs since Ft. Davis was losing land line phone and cell phone services as the fire was destroying those lines as well as electric power. I was secured from the Brewster county S.O. and started to return home.

No sooner had I left the S.O. parking lot, I heard that the Jeff Davis county Sheriff/VFD repeater had shut down and the assessment was they might have run down the backup batteries. I had a few spare repeater batteries at my house in Alpine so I volunteered to load them up and take them to Ft. Davis. Doug N5HYD, BBARC repeater engineer and AEP power company radio service technician, also came on to volunteer some batteries he had at his home, north of Ft. Davis. Bob WA5ROE, net control, passed word that we were clear to go ahead with that plan.

Doug was closer and arrived at the repeater site, high on Skyline Drive in Davis Mountains State Park about the time I was 6 or 7 miles north of Alpine. Doug reported that the S.O. repeater sight had been burned to the ground by the fire.



Several public service agencies' repeaters were destroyed. Used with permission.

Already part way there, Bob, Doug and I decided to go ahead and take the batteries to Ft. Davis anyway, in case another need developed for them. The BBARC has a repeater at McDonald Observatory that is solar/battery powered and that repeater was first priority for the Brewster to Jeff Davis counties HAM ARES back up communications, which was the only link left between the

two counties.

It was dark by the time I got to Ft. Davis. The fire was burning on both sides of the highway when I got to High Frontier School about 3 miles south of Ft. Davis. There were several dozens of emergency vehicles running up and down the highway, many Border Patrol vehicles at several locations, several water tanker trucks, and a couple hundred emergency people supervising evacuations and handling traffic control. From that point on, bushes, trees, fence posts, and power poles were all still burning or coals were glowing red. Grass was all charred black as coal. Ft. Davis was without power, except for the emergency generator at the VFD which had light and looked like the classic incident command post you expect to see.

But downtown Ft. Davis, in total dark, save for the lights at the VFD and on emergency vehicles, was a very scary and sobering sight.

Doug and I met at the AEP Power Company office and staged our 8 or 9 batteries there. Terry K5TDA was coordinating with the Jeff Davis VFD and is also an AEP employee and so had access to the batteries if they were needed.

Jeff Davis County also has a special communications trailer designed to cross communicate any radio bands as well as an emergency portable repeater/antenna tower/generator trailer that were pressed into service. These two pieces of communications equipment were funded through grants offered by Homeland Security. They paid for themselves many times over.

Many people and agencies were involved and all acted in concert to address the emergency. We even handled 3rd party to 3rd party traffic over telephone-radio patch to help AEP get power restored to the affected area.

Many of the ARES HAMS had more thrust upon them than one would deserve. Many of them sat and did nothing for many hours. But they all responded, took up the stations assigned to them, and did their jobs, even if their job was to be there just in case.

On the Wednesday evening local 2-meter net, Jim Fowler noted that the Rock House fire had consumed 201,000 acres and was 75% contained. He noted that it was the largest fire in Texas at the time in terms of area. Fortunately, there have been no human casualties, and the last reports I had indicated about 150 head of cattle and 7 horses died in the fire. Possibly 15 to 20 dwellings destroyed. But most important, no human lives were lost. Much in part due to the highly skilled efforts of the local fire departments and law enforcement agencies and the Texas Forest Service fire fighters.

It is the honor of the BBARC and our trained, skilled ARES operators to have been able to fill the need for communications where other infrastructures were disabled.

UPDATING CLUB RECORDS

Bill Baker, W5ATO

Please take time to help us get our club records up to date. Are you a BBARC member? Are you a member of ARES or RACES? Are you a member of ARRL? Do we have your current contact information?

All of this information is strictly for club use and none of it is sold out or given out without permission.

Why do we need it and how do we use it? For one thing, the BBARC is an official ARRL affiliated club and ARRL requires at least 51% of the clubs 'voting members' (Full Members; does not include newsletter subscribers,) must be current ARRL members. Once a year we have to submit a report to ARRL and provide these numbers to them.

It is also a good idea for club officers, emergency team managers, and other club activity leaders to have a reference to club members and their contact information.

Enclosed in this issue is a form we would like for all of our BBARC full members to fill out and return to us, or get the information to us somehow. We at least need our members names and ARRL membership status information. Those receiving the newsletter as a subscription or courtesy, we will be glad enter any information you wish to share with us as non BBARC members, but that is your choice.

Instructions and mailing addresses for submitting your information are included on the form.

TWIN SISTERS REPEATER REPAIR

Bill Baker, W5ATO

The RF spirits have been watching over us this April. When the Rockhouse Fire burned from Marfa to Ft. Davis and beyond on April 9th, the BBARC was running a safety net for the Hammerfest Bicycle event.

It was fortunate that it was the time trials section of the event and not the long race in progress at the time. Time trials are out 10 miles, turn around and come back, with one rider starting about every 2 minutes. The long race is a complete circuit of the 75 mile Scenic Loop with all 200 plus riders on the course at the same time. With the short course and limited number of riders, evacuation of the event was very swift.

It was also fortunate that a number of ARES HAMS were in Ft. Davis and able to quickly move to emergency net operations in Ft. Davis when public communications services failed. It allowed the Ft. Davis HAM residents to take care of their personal emergencies as the fire moved through and grazed the south end of town at the very time communications between Alpine and Ft. Davis operations were at their most critical stage. The highway between Ft. Davis and Alpine closed and reopened several times and it would have been impossible to have gotten HAMS from Alpine to Ft. Davis during that period.

Fortunate we were that the fire did not track too close to McDonald Observatory and take out our HAM repeater located there and covering the Ft. Davis area.

Fortunate we were that while we hardly ever use it more than 2 or 3 times a year, we still maintain a telephone Auto-patch and a hard-line telephone circuit at the repeater system hub on Elephant Mountain. At a time when the AEP power company workers were trying to get emergency power to critical locations, that link saved them many hours, possible a day or more, in establishing these critical power needs.

The RF Spirits also provided one final wink of oversight just to be sure we wake up and stay on our toes.

The Brewster County EOC was just moved and fitted up last year with good equipment, including good antennas and a good tower, and it can work the Alpine, Ft. Davis, Glass Mountains repeaters and the Elephant Mountain hub repeater directly. However the stations at the S.O. and the Civic Center had to work with handy talkies and were dependant on the

Alpine repeater to link to the Brewster EOC. While the Brewster EOC could work those stations in simplex easy enough, it would have been cumbersome to do that and stay linked with Ft. Davis.

On Tuesday the 19th, 1 week and three days after the start of the Rockhouse fire, Between 8 A.M. and noon, the Alpine, Twin Sisters repeater suddenly went dark. The 2-meter repeater and the 70 cm link radio both went dead as a post. Had that happened 10 days earlier it would have made our emergency communications operation quite a bit more difficult.

A trip to the repeater site was organized for Sunday the 24th. Due to the rugged road and 580 foot climb to reach the repeater, most trips are a minimum of 4 hours.



KI5ZQ Ken

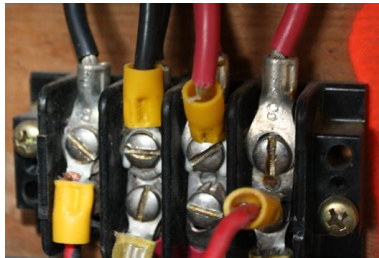
KF5HBQ Dave

W5ATO Bill

KF5KMA Danny

KB5R Rusty

KI5ZQ Ken, KF5HBQ Dave, KF5KMA Danny, and KB5R Rusty all went on the service trip. We started checking wiring and found loose barrier strip screws on some of the wires feeding power from the charge controller to the radios and repeater controller. That brought the UHF link radio and the repeater controller back to life. An inspection of the in-line fuses to the 2-meter repeater uncovered a broken fuse, the old round glass type. Replacing both power fuses on the 2-meter rig brought it back to life and the site was back in service operating normally.



Lesson learned?

Every time you go to a repeater site, especially the ones that are hard to get to, Check that all connections are tight and secure. Those terminals have been working fine for many years, but over

time and through many cycles of temperature and weather conditions, the screws simply worked loose. (The equipment is inside a metal shed on top of a mountain.)

THE BARK

Newsletter of the BBARC

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club
1402 N. 5th St.
Alpine, Texas 79830

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

BIG BEND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

<http://www.bigbendarc.com>

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

ARRL Affiliated Club
Amateur Radio Relay League
225 Main Street
Newington, CT, 06111-1494
www.arrl.org

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 to be put on the list.

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

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

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.

BBARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 10, 2011, Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank Building
Program "ROCK HOUSE AND ROPER FIRES
AFTER-ACTION CRITIQUE"

June 14, 2011, Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank Building
Program "HAM RADIO FUN -- FIELD DAY 2011"

June 25-26, 2011, Sat-Sun

FIELD DAY

July 4, 2011, Monday

HAMBURGER BOOTH IN THE PARK, Alpine, TX.

July 12, 2011, Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank Building
Program "EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW, BUT WERE
AFRAID TO ASK ABOUT THE BBARC REPEATER SYSTEM"

August 9, 2011, Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank Building
Program "THE FINAL COURTESY OF A QSO IS A QSL CARD --
QSL CARDS AND ONLINE
QSLING" (tentative)

September 3-5, 2011

BIG BEND BALLOON BASH, Alpine, Casparis Airport

September 13, 2011, Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank Building
Program "BLACK BOX RADIO -- SOFTWARE DEFINED RADIO
DEMONSTRATION" (tentative)

September 17-18, 2011, Sat-Sun

CYCLEFEST, Bicycle Ride, Ft. Davis, TX.

October 11, 2011, Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank Building
Program To Be Determined

November 8, 2011, Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank Building
Program To Be Determined

December 13, 2011, Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank Building
Program "SILENT AUCTION"
