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Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, AD5BB

June-July, 2011

Alpine, Texas

MEETING NOTES, JUNE, 2011

June 14, 2011

June meetings are normally pretty standard affairs and this year was no exception. Most business and the program dealt with preparations for Field Day and the 4th of July Hamburger booth at Alpine's Kokernot Park.

The only particular note of any difference from the plans of years past, was the County Burn Ban. While we normally cook meals at Field Day with a lot of charcoal and wood, this year we cooked with propane grills and insured that a fire extinguisher and a working water source were within reach of the cooking site, in order to comply with the terms of a variance granted to the event to allow for outdoor cooking.

Program "HAM RADIO FUN...FIELD DAY 2011"

MEETING NOTES, JULY, 2011

July 12, 2011

From the ARRL Members Only Website e-mail news;

W5NPR Appointed Interim WTX SM

It is official! Bill Roberts, W5NPR, of Alpine, TX takes the reins of the WTX Section from retiring SM John Dyer, AE5B. Bill Roberts presently serves the ARRL as the West Texas Section Traffic Manager and is alternate net control for the Big Bend Emergency Net and the West Texas Section Net. Bill has agreed to act as Interim WTX SM and will run for a full term at the next election in the fall. Congratulations Bill!

The BBARC is very proud of Roberts' appointment and will certainly stand behind him and give him our support in every way.

As a result of Billy's new ARRL appointment to Section Manager, Roberts asked to resign from 2 positions he holds with the BBARC in order to focus on his duties as Section Manager. Bill Baker, W5ATO accepted appointment as Repeater Committee Chair, and Chuck Dobbins, KA5PVB was unanimously nominated to assume the Big Bend 2-Meter Net Manager position. Chuck was unable to attend the meeting so that appointment was left dependant on his acceptance.

Field Day, July 4th

Financially the club gained a few dollars from each event. Generous provisions of beverages and pot luck food combined with lower cooking expenses due to no open fire cooking, due to the County Burn Ban, led to a modest overall profit in Field Day expenses. For the July 4th booth at the park, overall burger numbers were down considerably, however sell price increases and generous donations of part of the product

expenses from Albert, KD5ESB of the Sonic Drive In, the club was able to net a slightly better fund raiser than average over the past several years.

AS FOR FIELD DAY PERFORMANCE, we did much better than the past few years. There were 3 primary reasons for this year's high scoring. With better antennas we reduced interference between the two operating stations considerably. We had enough operators to keep someone on both stations for the entire 24 hours. We did not have any weather events in the area to force us off the air. And kudos to Chuck Dobbins, KA5PVB who spent 5 or 6 hours on 6 meters. Then he took up his shift on the sideband station, plus a shift for another volunteer who fell ill and had to return home. Chuck worked 5 hours straight on the sideband station.

Bill Brooks, KE5OG reported the numbers. 2,462 contacts on the SSB and CW stations and 57 on the GOTA station. 1,050 bonus points. Total point score was a little over 8,600 points, which appears to be the second highest point score in BBARC history.

Program "EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BBARC REPEATER SYSTEM... BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK"

Presented by Bill Baker, W5ATO

I will try not to break my arm, patting myself on the back.

Doug Otoupal, N5HYD and I try to keep our repeater system fully operational at all times possible. It is a vital tool for many of the BBARC ARES operations and specifically designated as an available emergency communications support system for Brewster and Jeff Davis Counties. So anytime we hear something that doesn't sound quite right on the repeaters we often find ourselves trouble-shooting and discussing it over the air. We discuss controllers, link radios, port connections, and other stuff that sometimes, others may not understand. At times it is not uncommon that Doug and I both find ourselves wondering what we are talking about.

Doug knows how to tune, trim, and align all the electronics inside all of the radios, controllers, etc., I just know what each THING is supposed to do, and how each THING is supposed to work with all of the other THINGS in the system.

With simple black and white lines, rectangles and text labels, I presented a Powerpoint slide show of diagrams and notes. Starting with a simple repeater, and then adding controllers, link repeater and radios, a phone patch, a remote base, and a SAME weather radio, we constructed our repeater system, step by step.

Upcoming Programs

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

September 13, "BLACK BOX RADIO -- SOFTWARE DEFINED RADIO DEMONSTRATION"

October 11, TBA

November 8, TBA

December 13, "SILENT AUCTION"

LATE WORD OF THE PASSING OF A BBARC FOUNDING OFFICER, DINO PARENTI, K5IAG (SK) JUNE 3, 1927 - FEBRUARY 15, 2007

With great respect for a leading founder of the BBARC, with sorrow in our hearts, and with compassion for his family, we grieve the loss of Dino Richard Parenti, K5IAG on February 15, 2007.

On December 17, 1974, five club officers signed the charter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club. Dino signed as Vice President of the club.

Dino was a brilliant electronics technician and an active member of the BBARC for some years. Through time, Dino eventually moved away from Alpine. BBARC Founding President, Dick Ellis, W5YCK had reported that Dino's health was not good some years ago.

On June 23 this year we learned from Dino's Step Daughter and her husband, Paula and Eddie Brunson, that Dino had passed away in 2007. We also learned that Paula's Mother, Dino's second wife, had been in poor health throughout 2009 and passed away in February 2010.

Paula tells us Dino would have been proud to know he had been recognized as a Founding Member during our 35th anniversary year.

Bob Ward, WA5ROE has recounted that Dino was the first person he ever heard use the word "software." In the mid '70s there were no Personal Computers (PCs). They came along in the late 70s to early 80s. Paula mentioned that Dino was one of the first people she knew to use the Internet and read the News Groups. Remember, the Internet did not become a publicly accessible network until the early 90s. It was originally a project of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) in the 60s or early 70s. As it evolved from DARPA it first reached out to research universities, and finally, after PCs came along and were capable of being networked, and as telephone circuits evolved to handle the bandwidth, the Internet as we know it today began to emerge. But Dino was there in the 70s.

Dino was on the leading edges in these technologies, decades before the rest of us were aware of them.

The following was published in the February 18, 2007 issue of the Midland Reporter-Telegram.

Parenti, Dino Richard

Dino Richard Parenti, 79, of Midland passed away Thursday, February 15, 2007, at Midland Memorial Hospital in Midland after a lengthy illness.

Graveside services are set for 3:00 pm on Tuesday, February 20, 2007 at Fairview Cemetery in Midland.

Viewing for friends and family will be from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm on Sunday February 18 and Monday February 19 at the Pipkin Funeral Home on Big Spring St. in Midland.

He was born June 3, 1927 in Buffalo, N.Y., the son of Dino and Claire. He and Elizabeth Carney married and had three children; Michael, Patricia and Mason. Dino served his country in the United States Marine Corps. He was an electronic technician and worked for Bell Aircraft and LandAir. Dino specialized in Radio Astronomy and worked for the Harvard University Radio Astronomy site at Ft. Davis and during his tenure at the University of Texas was instrumental in the development of the radio-astronomy site in the Davis Mountains in West Texas. He expanded his career as a technician on Radiographic equipment and at one time, flew all over the country as one of a handful of technicians qualified in repairing CT Scanners and the first MRI machines for Gilbert, Picker and Fonar. He spent his golden years with his bride, Charlsie Sanford.

He was preceded in death by his parents; the mother of his children, Elizabeth; his sister Lorraine Gallery; his special Aunt Florence Crosby and his beloved daughter Patricia.

He is survived by his wife Charlsie; his sons Mason, Michael and his wife Tracee, daughters Karen and her husband Dale, Karla and her husband Greg, and Paula and her husband Eddie. Grandchildren; Shawn, Amber, Larry, Lisa, Heather, Henry, Charlie, Heather, Shauna, Leah, Guy and Allison, and several great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Midland, the Alzheimer's Association or the American Heart Association.

CLUB EXTENDS SYMPATHIES TO MEMBER AND FAMILY

The members of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club extend their heartfelt sympathies to Steve Cowell, KI5YG and his family, upon hearing of the passing of Steve's mother, Joanna Cowell, Tuesday, July 19, 2011.

Joanna was well known in, and loved by the Alpine community, and a delightful friend of many BBARC members. For years she was a moving force in The Big Bend Players community theater group, and a regular performer in many Sul Ross State University theater productions. She was also a strong supporter of the Alpine Library. Her mother, Bonnie Newell was one of the Library's founders, and her husband, Lee served on the Library Board for many years.

A charming, and inspiring woman has left us. She will be remembered in our hearts with love and respect.

STEVE POSNER, NF5FF, HAM, PILOT, DENTIST



Steve has been with the BBARC for about 11 years. He retired from the U.S. Public Health Service while he was posted in Dallas, and having visited Alpine and the Big Bend many times, he relocated to Alpine.

Steve was born in New York City, went to Dental School at New York University, then joined the Army as an Army Dentist. After the Army,

Steve joined the U.S. Public Health Service, which is one of the services under the office of the U.S. Surgeon General, as are the Center for Disease Control and the Food and Drug Administration. He worked in the Office of International Health. The work was very rewarding for Steve and he has provided dental services from Haitian refugee camps to the Soviet Union. He has had many permanent duty postings throughout the U.S. and its possessions, including many of the Pacific Islands and Puerto Rico.

AS A HAM;

Steve was first licensed in New York in 1964 at the age of 13. His first call sign was WB2QET which he kept for many years. When Steve moved to Puerto Rico he wanted to get a DX call sign and so he became KP4FF. Several years ago he renewed his license and returned to a U.S. call sign, NF5FF.

Steve grew up with HAM radio in the home as his older brother was a HAM. As a young boy he did not have the pocketbook to purchase radio rigs off the shelf, so he built his own rigs using designs from the "Radio Amateur's Hand Book". Of course these were the days of the vacuum tube, before transistors were readily available and just before Integrated Circuits were developed.

His first rig was an AM transmitter. Then sideband was getting more use, but to build a Single Sideband radio required the use of a very expensive Collins filter to produce the Upper or Lower sideband. So Steve built a Double sideband rig. He and his family were living in apartment building on the 5th floor so his antenna was a #26 magnet wire hanging out of the window. With this rig he was able to work Australia from The Bronx, New York.

AS A PILOT;

Steve was always interested in flight and flew RC model airplanes in his youth. He was licensed in 1986 when he lived in Cleveland, Ohio.

While Steve was working in Dallas, an associate told him about Big Bend National Park. Steve visited and loved it and returned as often as he could. But the 14 hour drive did make it an infrequent excursion. Later his associate learned that Steve had a pilot's license and told him there was an airport at Alpine. Steve has been flying in and out and around the Big Bend ever since.

Today Steve flies a very uncommon, but fun aircraft. It is a 2008 Czech Aircraft Works, Sport Cruiser, manufactured in Kunovice, Czech Republic. Czech Aircraft Works was founded in 1934 as a glider manufacturer. For a time it was one of the manufacturing plants for the Soviet Mig aircraft.

The Sport Cruiser was first manufactured in 2006. In 2009 Czech Aircraft Works was sold to Slavia Capital and became Czech Sport Aircraft. The Sport Cruiser was distributed in the U.S. by Sport Aircraft Works. In 2010 it was distributed in the U.S. by Piper Aircraft. Piper discontinued distribution based on issues of business operations.

The Sport Cruisers are built and flown in the Czech Republic for European certification, then they are disassembled and shipped to overseas distributors for final assembly, outfitting and distribution.

While being a very small, 2-seat aircraft, the Sport Cruiser is a highly advanced generation of aircraft. From the engine, to navigation, to avionics and control it employs some of the latest in aviation technologies.

The engine is a modern high tech, 100 hp. Rotax 912 ULS. This is an electronically controlled and monitored engine using automatic altitude compensating carburetors. The pilot has no fuel mixture control to worry with in the cockpit. The flaps and trim controls are all electric, full flight controls and instruments available in both the pilot and copilot position, and it even comes with an emergency locator transmitter.



SPECIFICATIONS:

Wing span	28.8'
Length	21.3'
Empty weight	727.5 lb
Gross weight	1320 lb
Stall speed	33 mph air speed
Cruise speed	125 mph air speed (75% power)
Max rated speed	150 mph air speed
Take off, grass	360'
Landing, grass	400'
Cruise range	857 miles
Cruise time	6 hours (143 mph)

It is easy to see this is a versatile private plane able to fly slow for sight seeing, or travel cross country in about half of road travel time.

Steve's Sport Cruiser is outfitted with what is called a 'Full Glass Panel' in the cockpit. All aircraft systems are

electronic and all instruments and gauges are displayed on video screens mounted in the front panel of the cockpit. The pilot has push-button control of which instruments, gauges, and other information is or is not displayed on either the pilot or copilot displays. A central computer system collects data from all sensors from every system and distributes the information when, where and how the pilot selects. This display system includes GPS, topographic and aeronautical mapping systems as well as a continuous satellite link to weather data. NEXRAD radar and other weather data can be overlaid on maps displayed on one of the screens in the cockpit. There is also a transponder receiver to detect transponder equipped aircraft nearby. And as all systems are tied through a central computer, anytime there is a critical failure of any component in any system, or there is any navigational obstruction, there are visual displays and audible alerts to give warning.



WEST TEXAS SECTION, A QUICK LOOK BACK

The West Texas Section was officially created a little over 24 years ago, on January 1, 1987. In an editorial in the May, 1985 issue of "THE BARK" by Dave, N5DO, we find the creation of a West Texas Section was already a topic of interest among West Texas HAMs, for good reasons.

THE BARK, MAY, 1985;

EDITORIAL

With the West Gulf ARRL Division Convention being held in San Angelo this fall, the time has come for the amateur community in West Texas to once again request a West Texas Section.

Consider some numbers: Texas (with two sections: North Texas and South Texas) has 25,765 amateurs. New York has 28,000 amateurs and three sections. Massachusetts has only 11,988 amateurs, yet they also have two sections. Texas has more amateurs than 17 other ARRL sections combined.

This would be no big deal if Texas was not so large. Being as large as we are, it is difficult to compete in some contests (especially in VHF contests against Houston, which is in the same section as Alpine [but is 550 miles away]). Here in Alpine we feel close to Midland/Odessa and San Angelo, yet they are all in North Texas, while we are in South Texas.

When I open QST to the Section Reports portion and read what the SCM (who lives in Brownsville) has to say, I see reports of activities in Corpus Christi, Houston, and San Antonio, yet nothing of activity in West Texas. I don't blame the SCM, it is just too large an area to cover.

We need a West Texas Section. It could run west of a line running North-South through Abilene. The West Texas Section will have a substantial population, with Abilene, Amarillo, Lubbock, El Paso, and Midland/Odessa being the largest population centers. North Texas will have Dallas/Ft. Worth, South Texas will have Houston/San Antonio.

Several years ago, at a West Gulf Division convention in El Paso, the then Division Director (I believe it was Jack Gant) said he would work for such a West Texas Section. What happened? Let's revive the question again this fall in San Angelo.
73sN5DO

Late the following year, we find whatever happened in between these articles, found its mark, and the ARRL did go forward and created the West Texas Section.

"THE BARK", NOVEMBER, 1986;

West Texas Section Created

After the editorial in an issue of The Bark last year calling for the creation of a West Texas Section, action has taken place. The editorial was reprinted in at least two other newsletters and prompted a good deal of discussion. Ray Wangler, W5EDW, the Director of the West Gulf ARRL Section, decided to bring the idea to ARRL and it was approved effective January 1, 1987.

The exact boundary of the West Texas Section is still to be determined (the major difficulty is whether or not Abilene will be included) but should be announced soon. This change will be advantageous for all amateurs in West Texas. Our thanks go to Ray Wangler for a job well done. The idea of a West Texas section has been around for some time, but he was able to get it accomplished.

It is good to have a smaller section with its members having a little closer relationship geographically. Still, Presidio is a small farming community in the Rio Grande basin with city limits bordering Mexico. El Paso is like Presidio on steroids. There is farming in the Rio Grande basin, as well as large scale manufacturing and commerce in the city. Alpine is in the dry mountain desert depending on large, sparsely vegetated grazing ranches, hunting leases, and tourism. Odessa/Midland is in the heart of the oil fields of the Permian Basin. Lubbock and Amarillo are in the panhandle plains of crop farming and cattle raising.

It is 337 miles from Alpine to Amarillo as the crow flies. From the southern reaches of the Rio Grande in Big Bend National Park, to the north east corner of the Texas Panhandle is over 540 miles. Brewster County itself is nearly 120 miles from north to south.

We all owe John Dyer, AE5B our greatest expression of thanks for the job he has done over the past several years. He has done great work to tie together and represent the concerns of such a widely dispersed and diverse section of ARRL HAMs. Congratulations on a job very well done, John.

And we know Bill Roberts to be another one of those individuals who not only looks after the welfare of his neighbor on the other side of the fence, but also the neighbors in the next county and beyond.

Any Texas Section Manager has a big job in front of him. And Bill is accustomed to big jobs. That is just a way of life in West Texas. We know he is fully capable and we know all West Texas HAMs will enjoy working with him.

BBEN TURNS 34 IN SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 18, 2011 the Big Bend Emergency Net will complete its 34th year of operation.

Sunday, September 18, 1977, Bob WA5ROE, Dave N5DO, James WB5SFA, and Tom WA5QZT in Levelland all got together at 8:30 A.M. on 3.925 MHz to inaugurate what would become the Big Bend Emergency Net. QRM shortly motivated the move to 3.922 MHz that is used today.

The Big Bend Emergency Net has met every Sunday since September 18, 1977. It is registered Net of the ARRL. 34 years at 52.17857 weeks a year yields 1,774 meetings of the net, without fail on September 18, 2011.

THE BARK

Newsletter of the BBARC

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

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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 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

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"

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"

September 17-18, 2011, Sat-Sun

CYCLEFEST, Bicycle Ride, Ft. Davis, TX.

September 18, 2011, Sunday BBEN 3.922, 34 Years Regular Net # 1774

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

November 12-13, 2011, Sat-Sun

TERLINGUA DUAL SPORT RIDE, Family Motorcycle Ride,
Terlingua, TX.

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

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