

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

September, 2011

Alpine, Texas

MEETING NOTES, SEPTEMBER, 2011

September, 2011

Repeater move will be "sometime" in the spring time!
At Elephant Mountain.

Oct. 15th will be a celebration of the 100th anniversary of aviation in Alpine, KB5R is contact for more info!!!

The Brewster County EOC has given us permission to move the RV to their parking lot!

Programs:

Chuck Dobbins - KA5PVb gave a short talk on importance of being a NCS for the Wednesday evening 2 meter net.

Dave Cockrum-N5DO talked about Simulated Emergency Test set for Thursday September 29th at 6:00 PM, meeting at the Brewster County EOC for assignments.

Barb Stone - KM5VM Talked about the TS-2000 HF rig in use at EOC and other emergency center and also used at Field Day.

Upcoming Programs

OCTOBER 11, "VP8ORK, SOUTH ORKNEY, 2011"
New DVD Video

Located just below 60 degrees south, the South Orkney Islands are one of only four DXCC entities within the UN Antarctic Treaty Zone. Icebergs, rugged cliffs, and strict environmental regulations are just a few of the reasons why these islands are so difficult to activate.

52 minutes

NOVEMBER 8,

Jim Fowler, KD5KBU will present something related to Astronomy.

DECEMBER 13,
"SILENT AUCTION"

BIG BEND BALLOON BASH SEPTEMBER 3-5

On September 3, Balloons went up. Most, if not all, came back down. It was about as perfect a morning for ballooning as could be desired, cool and very calm. In fact some balloons flew for nearly an hour and probably didn't drift more than 5 miles from the launch site. Most, if not all, landed in one

pasture or another of the 06 Ranch and the 06 cowboys were on hand to help everyone in and out to retrieve their balloons.

That afternoon a weather front moved through and windy conditions grounded the rest of the event, including the Sunday evening fire concert.

CYCLEFEST SEPTEMBER 17-18

On the good side, weather was perfect, everyone had a great time, and there were no injuries reported at all over the 2-day event. It was a great success.

Attendance was down by quite a few this year. No one knows why for sure. But many riders in this event come from central Texas and fuel prices are still quite high, and this year's event was just 2 weeks after the Bastrop Fires broke out near Austin.

And the unusual coincidence must be noted. One of the largest Texas wildfires of record (over 314,000 acres,) broke out and disrupted Hammerfest on April 9, 2011 in the Rock House Fire, and 2 weeks before Cyclefest, on September 4, 2011, one of the most destructive fires in terms of structures destroyed (1,669 homes, 40 commercial structures) in the Bastrop Fire, a sizeable fire in area at over 34,000 acres.

One more notable announcement concerning the Hammerfest/Cyclefest events we must make with mixed emotions. Event Director, David Ham, KE5FEJ of Peyton's Bikes and the Permian Basin Bicycling Association will be stepping down as Director and Organizer of the events. David has done a superb job in organizing, coordinating and directing every Hammerfest and Cyclefest event for over a decade. These events are supported by many bicycle clubs and associations and merchants throughout Texas, and the search is underway to find a new Director for Hammerfest and Cyclefest. We will have more information on the future of these events and the new Director and crew it comes to us. At present, Peyton's Bikes, Hammerfest / Cyclefest web pages posts Hammerfest for April 14-15, 2012 (very tentative) and Cyclefest for September 15-16, 2012.

David Ham has been most cordial, and effective in working with the volunteer support groups that assist with these events. We give him our thanks and admiration for the work he has done. We also look forward to working with the next Director and pledge our assistance to them and the future Hammerfest and Cyclefest events.

100 YEARS OF AVIATION IN ALPINE OCTOBER 15TH

Check the local media for details, but there will be a celebration of 100 years of aviation in Alpine on October 15th. It will honor the establishment of the Alpine Casparis Airport and will include the display of vintage aircraft including a WWII era bomber.

Be there, or be in the air.

GETTING STARTED IN HAM RADIO

Bill Baker, W5ATO

Once or twice a year, in my early life, my parents, siblings and I would visit my grandfather and other relatives in Granite, Oklahoma. J.R Willis, my grandfather, was a business man, owned a hardware store, a granite quarry and monument production business, and several municipal cable TV companies in southwest Oklahoma and eastern New Mexico.

On one visit when I was about 8 or 10 years old, I got up early and went into his living room while he was rag chewing on the radio. I remembering him telling the other station his call, "This is W5ATO, Whiskey 5 Apples, Tomatoes, Oranges, J.R. in Granite, Oklahoma." After he finished the conversation I asked him about who he was talking to and he told me and added that he talked to people all over the world, even Australia and Russia.

I thought that was so cool to be able to pick up a microphone and talk to someone anywhere else on the globe. It was fascinating.

That was back in the 1960's and where I lived there wasn't an outreaching radio club. 1970 we moved to Houston. There were no HAMS in Houston at all, that anyone who wasn't already a HAM would know about. HAMS seemed to be almost as secretive as Free Masons.

I moved to Alpine in 1990. By 1994 I was a student and an employee at Sul Ross State University. I met John Sanders, AD5BY, and at that time John was not a HAM either. John had been a broadcast radio engineer and DJ and we both had interest in someday becoming HAMS. We discovered that the owner of the True Value store was a HAM and that Dave Cockrum, N5DO, a Vice President at Sul Ross were both HAMS. We visited with Dave about our interest in becoming HAMS and soon he scheduled a Tech class. We took the class with a few others and in early 1998, John and I, and Albert at Sonic Drive In, tested and got our first Ham License. I was KD5ESV and Albert was, and still is KD5ESB, and John's first call sign was KD5EIT

Since then I got my General, I think I got an Advanced license, which is no longer available, and finally I got my Extra license, during the period that an Extra only had to pass a 5 word per minute CW exam. I don't remember exactly when, I think it was just after I got my Tech license, I requested, and received my vanity call "W5ATO". Whisky 5 Apples Tomatoes Oranges.

I hope to SK as W5ATO.

K5N EXPEDITION RETURNS

Marshall Williams, K5QE has just contacted us to let us know that the K5N Rare Grid Expedition Team is planning another trip to "Middle of Nowhere" grids of the Big Bend area of West Texas.

In 2010, just after Field Day in June, Marshall and his crew attempted to activate grid DL88 in the southern reaches of Big Bend National Park. DL88 is mostly in Mexico and only extends into the US for a handful of miles at the Talley campsites along the Rio Grande in Big Bend National Park. At that time, 6 meters was just starting to become active once and a while. While the K5N group was well prepared with their mobile station and equipment, the shifting of the soft sands on the Talley campsite road had softened too much for their communications truck to get to the site. They were able to retreat and continue on to Lajitas and Presidio and make contacts in other rare grids.

I have forwarded many of you in the area or with noted interest in grid hunting, Marshall's e-mail to me. He will be in the area, scouting new sites, Sunday, October 9th and looking forward to any help the BBARC can provide them for their next expedition sometime next year.

Let me just insert some of Marshall's e-mail and anyone who has interest in working with him in this venture may contact him.

FROM: Marshall Williams, K5QE
TO: Bill Baker, W5ATO
SUBJECT: Reconnaissance to Big Bend area grids

Hello again Bill....Once again, the K5N Group is going to try to activate some of the rare grids in the Big Bend area. I am planning to leave Austin Sunday morning about 9AM and drive out to that area and check out some operating sites. I will be looking South of Kent, TX and South of Van Horn for sites on the DM70-DM71 grid line.

Then, I will drive to Marfa and motel for the night. I will explore sites South of Marfa on US67 and on Ranch Road 169. There are several sites down there I want to look at. I will probably motel again at Marfa on Monday night. Then I will be driving East on US90 to some sites East of Dryden that I want to look at. From there, I will be driving back to East Texas.

If I can raise up any of the BBARC members when I am in the Marfa area, it would be great to meet them and maybe eat out somewhere Sun night or Mon night....whatever works.

We are going to try DL88 again next year, so we will be looking for a bit of help from BBARC if that would be possible. We have plenty of time to think about that.... We are also going to activate some of the other grids out your way.....

73 Marshall K5QE

On their last trip, the help they desired most from us was to have a 2-meter link back to civilization so someone could

post spotting reports to the Internet, so the help they need doesn't necessarily mean camping out at the remote rare sites, but may be more important that we have some communications with their site and access to the Internet to post their reports. Where they will be there will be no WyFi.

For those in the area who are interested, please listen for K5QE this Sunday and Monday.

If you miss him this weekend, or are out of the area but interested in joining the effort, please contact; Marshall Williams, K5QE at k5qe@sabinenet.com .

Sent to me from Bob Ward, WA5ROE

Good Afternoon I am sending this email out to all Ham Radio Clubs. If you could distribute this information to your club members at your next meeting, it would be greatly appreciated. I have launched a new Ham Radio Auction site. The site is www.HamRadioHQ.Com, it opened its doors on Sat. Sept17th. I am trying to re-engineer my career and could use your support. Regards Steve K2HQ

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 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

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

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank Building

“VP8ORK, SOUTH ORKNEY, 2011”

New DVD Video

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”