



Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, K5FD

November, 2017

Alpine, Texas

Barb Stone, KM5VM, SK

Editor's Note: Barb was an active member of the Big Bend ARC. She was a regular on the BBEN, was a traffic handler, a regular participant in our club activities especially Field Day and gave generously to the club. RIP, Barb.

March 17, 1929 – October 18, 2017

Barbara Stone, 88, passed away Wednesday, October 18, in College Station, where she had recently relocated after spending her retirement years in Alpine, Texas.

Barb was born in Cookeville, Tennessee, to Mary Elizabeth and Bryce Douglas Stone. She attended George Washington University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Sociology and was a member of the women's rifle team. She received her Master of Arts in Sociology from the University of Tennessee (the REAL UT).

As a child, Barb was active in the Girl Scouts and remained active through her adult years. She worked professionally for the National Office of the Girl Scouts of American in the training division. Summers were often spent either attending or running Girl Scout Camp. Hundreds of women and girls benefitted from her dedication, creativity, and love for Girl Scouting and, especially, for camping.

Barb left the Girl Scouts to pursue a Doctorate of Education at Boston College, where she studied under Malcolm Knowles. Upon completion, she served as a member of the faculty at James Madison University as Associate Professor of Sociology. In 1977, Barb joined the faculty of the College of Education at Texas A&M University as Associate Professor of Adult & Extension Education. During her years at

Madison and A&M, Barb guided graduate students from all over the world in finding their own understanding of learning and ways to contribute to the learning of others. Many of her students remained in Barb's life as her legacy and her "chosen family." At Texas A&M, Barb was a founding senator of the Faculty Senate and served as department head; she retired from Texas A&M in 1991.

Barb is the recipient of numerous teaching awards including the Association of Former Students' Distinguished Achievement Award in Teaching, College of Education, in 1983. She had over 65 published articles and presentations. Barb always listed her profession as "teacher."

Barb spent her retirement years in Alpine, Texas, where she fully embraced life in the Big Bend. She became an EMT and volunteered with Terlingua Medics, where she served as their "oldest living medic." She was a HAM radio operator, call number KM5VM, and regularly participated in local and international events.

Barb volunteered at Big Bend State Ranch and taught an Elder Hostel course on medicinal plants of the desert. She was an amateur astronomer and helped at the McDonald Observatory's Star Parties. She founded the "Double Diamond Gang" of volunteers for the Cowboy Poetry Gathering at Sul Ross State University. Barb received an abundance of recognition for her contributions to the communities in the Big Bend.

Barb traveled and camped throughout the US and Mexico in tents, vans, trailers, and eventually her motor homes, usually accompanied by a dog and a telescope.

Barb was predeceased by her father, Bryce

Douglas Stone, her mother, Mary Elizabeth Stone Jarsen, and her brother, Bryce Douglas Stone, Jr. She is survived by countless friends and family and her pets, Quincy and Simon and Frankie and Knobby.

At Barb's request, there will be no funeral. Her ashes will be spread in the Big Bend at a later date. Barb's family and friends will plan a gathering to share pie and memories in her beloved Big Bend of Texas in the near future.

Those wishing to may make a donation in Barb's memory to the Alpine Humane Society – Ezra Fund (alpinehumanesociety.org).

Steve Poster, KX5SP, Assisting in Puerto Rican Emergency

After working hurricane duty in Florida doing my normal medical supervision stuff on my Incident Response Coordination Team, I was asked by Homeland Security to VOLUNTEER for a completely different mission in Puerto Rico on their Tactical Radio Communications Task Force. They paid my way to PR but I'm volunteering my time. If you remember for years in Alpine my callsign was KP4FF. I used to live here and know the lay of the land.



I've been setting up and operating HF digital stations running Pactor 3 thru the Winlink system to provide email links at critical points - with speeds of 3200 bps. Mostly on federal HF frequencies but sometimes on the ham bands if propagation is more favorable for that. Have worked closely with Oscar KP4RF, a brilliant researcher at Univ. of PR who also happens to be the ARRL section manager of Puerto Rico. He

has tirelessly helped integrate my operations with the local ham population, despite his home being destroyed.

The FCC is physically present in the Joint Field Office in San Juan and I kid you not they are very helpful and accomodating. For example they waived some rules and if we need to we are allowed to operate SSB voice in the CW portion of the band. We do for one particular link every day.

After working in the San Juan area for a while, I was given responsibility for the Ponce PR area, where I am now, on the south coast. Ponce is where I used to live in the early 1980s.

No electricity, no cell service, no internet, no street lights at night, no traffic lights - pretty dangerous driving at night, trying to steer around potholes the size of small Volkswagens. After a while I decided it was potentially life threatening so I no longer drive at night until traffic controls return.

On the southern half of the island practically all comms are non-existent. The only way to report a fire is for someone to physically walk into a fire station and say my house is on fire. Then when the fire apparatus drives out of the station there is no communication ability to call for additional units or be dispatched any where. Same for ambulances and police. Comm conditions are a little better in the northern part of the island (where San Juan is located). Before the storm public safety had an 800 MHz trunking system in the north that carried police, fire, and EMS on the same system. About 1/2 of that system is destroyed so some towns have coverage but many have no comms.

Most of the amateur repeaters went down. Quite a few in the north are operational again and linked, many on battery power with solar cells. Hams and government pukes like me and public service, particularly fire departments have used the amateur radio repeaters and stations for critical comms.

At this time no repeaters are operational in the south where I am. I hear them working on the Ponce 2 mtr repeater so I expect it will be back in

service in the next couple of days which will be most helpful in communicating with San Juan where all the resources are coming from.

It's a real mess down here and the suffering is heart breaking.

73,
Steve KX5SP / NCS998
Ponce, Puerto Rico



**BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT
From WA5ROE**

Date	Net Control	Check-ins	Length	Remarks
10/29/17	WA5ROE	40	35	
10/22/17	WA5ROE	37	33	KM5VM, Barb SK
10/15/17	WA5ROE	31	24	
10/08/17	KE5OG	35	17	
10/01/17	W5NPR	40	35	

Remember – the BBEN meets **every** Sunday on 3922 KHz at 8:15 a.m. Central time (either CST or CDT). Visitors are always welcome. Early check-ins are welcome beginning around 8:05 a.m. on 3922 kHz or on the BBARC repeater system or on EchoLink.

2 Meter Net Report

Our 2 meter net meeting EVERY Wednesday at 8:00 PM (local time) on the clubs repeater system network. These are good training ground for possible emergency situations, as well as helping the new hams in the area to have an easy way to get use to "talking on the radio".

The club website (www.bigbendarc.com) has ALL the information on the 2 meter net. Included is the Net Control members schedule, the "script" (supplied ONLY as a guide to ensure the

important information is given out weekly - you can use it anyway you see fit) and a list of the recent check-in members.

If you have an interest in joining the Net Control stations please call me ([432/837-2257](tel:4328372257)) or holler at me during the Wednesday evening net (either before or after the net).

The month of October had four (4) Wednesdays in it and it went this way:

Date	Check-ins	Net Control
10/25/17	18	KA5PVB
10/18/17	15	KG5BMK
10/11/17	20	KG5LMG
10/04/17	4	KF5KMA

57 total check-ins for October.

If you don't have the time to check-in to the net and stick around for the round-table discussion, take a minute of your time and check-in as an "in-and-out" (where you're there for the head count but don't have the time to participate). All participation is much appreciated and encouraged.

Any of the new hams in the community, if you have questions or problems with trying to get radios and antennas set-up feel free to bring them up during the net. We may not have the answer right off the cuff, but somebody can find the info and get back with you shortly!

During the month of September the net had no check-ins from the following hams on our Echo-Link System:

***Special thanks to Al KG5HEJ for helping us out by monitoring the Echo-Link System for us, so we DON'T miss anyone! ***

73's and hope to talk to you soon.

Chuck Dobbins – KA5PVB
2-meter Net Manager

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ABOUT THE BBARC

BBARC Club Officers

President - Allen Moore, N5NYM
Vice-President - Bill Brooks, KE5OG
Secretary - Billy Roberts, W5NPR
Treasurer - Angie Otoupol, N5MVV

THE BARK Newsletter of the BBARC

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

Publisher: Bob Ward, WA5ROE
[wa5roe at juno.com](mailto:wa5roe@juno.com)

Editor: Bill Brooks, KE5OG
[bill.ke5og at gmail.com](mailto:bill.ke5og@gmail.com)

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

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MEMBERSHIP AND NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

2017 Dues are due

Annual membership is Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 each year. Dues are \$36 per year for individual or individual & spouse.

Membership allows you to participate in all club activities and vote at the monthly meetings.

Newsletters are available by e-mail for members, subscribers, and interested recipients. Send your e-mail address to [bill.ke5og at gmail.com](mailto:bill.ke5og@gmail.com) to be put on the list.

Founded December 17, 1974

ARRL affiliate since 1986

The BBARC is a 501(C)3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

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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 at 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, Chuck Dobbins, KA5PVB,
[charles.dobbins52 at yahoo.com](mailto:charles.dobbins52@yahoo.com)

BBARC REPEATER SYSTEM

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

147.120+	Shafter, Cibolo Creek
147.020+	Elephant Mt. south of Alpine. System hub
146.620-	Ft. Davis located at McDonald Observatory
146.720-	Alpine, Pearce Mountain
146.820-	Terlingua, Study Butte
146.920-	Glass Mountains, Alpine / Ft. Stockton
145.230-	Emergency Repeater

BBARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Club Meeting, November 14, 7:30 p.m., West Texas
National Bank Community Room.

WAE DX RTTY Contest, 0000z, Nov 11 to 2357z, Nov 12

North American SSB Sprint, 0000z to 0400z, Nov 12

ARRL Sweepstakes, SSB, 2100z, Nov 18 to 0300z, Nov 20

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW, 0000z, Nov 25 to 2400z,
Nov 26