

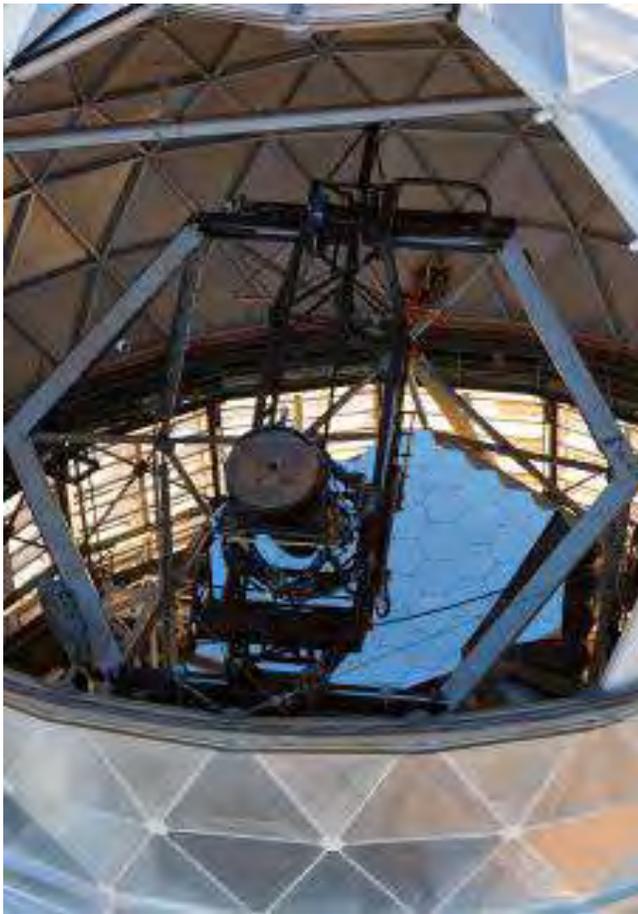


Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, K5FD September, 2018

Alpine, Texas

Club to Tour Hobby-Eberly Telescope at McDonald Observatory

The Big Bend Amateur Radio Club will hold their monthly meeting at the Hobby-Eberly Telescope Tuesday, September 11, at McDonald Observatory in Fort Davis.



The tour will be hosted by Jim Fowler, KD5KBU, System Engineer, and a member of the Big Bend ARC.

Members who would like to join the tour should meet in the HET parking lot at 7:30 p.m.

Club Raffle Tickets are Available

During the last meeting, the club's Finance Committee recommended the club hold a raffle. Tickets are now available for sale.

We will raffle off three items in time for Christmas. First Prize will be a \$700 gift certificate, Second Prize is a \$200 gift certificate and third prize is a \$100 gift certificate. The certificates are redeemable at Morrison True Value Hardware, Morrison True Value Garden Center or Lucy's Christmas Cottage. All are located on Fifth Street in Alpine. The drawing will be held December 13 right after the "Talk to Santa Clause Event" at Morrison True Value.

Cost of the tickets is \$10 each and only 300 were printed. Tickets are available from club members or by contacting Bill Brooks at bill.ke5og@gmail.com or at 432-244-8863.

Club members can pick up their allocation of tickets from KE5OG anytime.

Top 10 Most Wanted DXCC Entities List Updated

 Club Log's [DXCC Most Wanted](#) entities list has been updated as of August 28. The list includes 340 entities, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), or North Korea, is the #1 most-wanted DXCC entity, as it has been for quite a few years.

The other top ten most-wanted entities, listed in descending order, are: 3Y/B Bouvet Island; FT5/W Crozet Island; BS7H Scarborough Reef; CE0X San Felix Islands; BV9P Pratas Island; KH7K Kure Island; KH3 Johnston Island; VK0M Macquarie Island, and FT5/X Kerguelen Island.

Reverse-Polarity Sunspot Group Does Not Belong to Cycle 25, Observatory Says

The Royal Observatory of Belgium's Solar-Terrestrial Centre of Excellence ([STCE](#)) [has asserted](#) that the reverse polarity sunspot group 2720 observed in late August belongs to the current solar cycle — Cycle 24 — and does not represent the start of Cycle 25.

“Because of its reversed polarity, some websites claimed sunspot group 2720 was possibly one of the first groups of new solar Cycle 25,” the Centre said. “This is simply not true, in view of its very low 8° latitude. The next solar Cycle 25 sunspot group should have *both* reversed magnetic polarity *and* much higher heliographic latitude, typically 20° to 40° from the equator. Only two tiny, short-lived numbered sunspot groups are currently assigned to new solar Cycle 25, sunspot group 2620 in December 2016 and 2694 in January 2018.”

STCE said that while both of those small sunspots have been assigned to Cycle 25, some uncertainty

exists as to just which sunspot cycle they actually belong to. STCE said some additional sunspot groups that belong to Cycle 25 were so tiny and short lived that they were not assigned a sunspot number. “During each solar cycle, about 3% of all active regions have reversed polarity but do not belong to the previous or next solar cycle,” the Centre said. “With 2,000 to 3,000 sunspot groups per solar cycle, this means that every solar cycle has a few dozen reverse-polarity sunspots that belong to the ongoing sunspot cycle despite their reverse polarity.”



After examining magnetograms of the sun's surface, well-known Amateur Radio solar observer and propagation authority Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, agreed that AR2720 is reversed in polarity from other sunspots in the northern solar hemisphere. What confuses the issue, he said, is its low latitude, as a Cycle 25 sunspot area should be at a much higher latitude.

The same weekend of sunspot group 2720, a radio blackout lasting about a day took place, affecting the HF amateur bands as well as GPS systems. Solar watcher Tamitha Skov, in her YouTube report, [called](#) the G3-level geomagnetic storm “one of the top five storms of the solar cycle.”

As ARRL Propagation Reporter Tad Cook, K7RA, noted in his August 31 edition of *The K7RA Solar Update*, “For HF operations, we want to see high solar flux and sunspot numbers and low A index, a measure of geomagnetic instability. On Sunday, August 26, we saw high A index numbers from an unexpected crack, opening in Earth's magnetic field. Solar wind spewed forth, and the planetary A index rose to 76. During this period the planetary K index — a component of the A index — rose to 7 over a 6-hour period. Seven is a big K index number.”

Cook went on to note that Alaska felt the full force of the geomagnetic storm, with an A index in Fairbanks of 90 — a very high number.

Concern Rising within Amateur Radio Community over WWV-WWVH Shut Down Proposal

ARRL members and Amateur Radio clubs are expressing increased concern over the inclusion of WWV and WWVH on a list of proposed cuts in the White House's National Institute of Standards and Technology ([NIST](#)) Fiscal Year 2019 budget request. The proposed cuts also would include the Atomic Clock signal from WWVB used to synchronize specially equipped clocks and watches. Online petitions soliciting signatures include [one](#) established by Tom Kelly II, W7NSS, of Portland, Oregon, who would like to see funding for the stations maintained. At this point, the budget item is only a proposal, not a final decision. That would be up to the Congress to decide.

ARRL is among those worried over the possible loss of WWV, WWVH, and WWVB and is suggesting that members of the Amateur Radio community who value the stations for their precise time and frequency signals and other information sign Kelly's petition and/or contact their members of Congress promptly, explaining how the stations are important to them, beyond government and military use.

Kelly's petition, which may be signed by US residents, notes that WWV is among the oldest radio stations in the US, having been established in 1920. "The station has transmitted the official US time for nearly 100 years, and is an instrumental part in the telecommunications field, ranging from broadcasting to scientific research and education," his petition says. "Additionally, these stations transmit marine storm warnings from the National Weather Service, GPS satellite health reports, and specific information

concerning current solar activity and radio propagation conditions. These broadcasts are an essential resource to the worldwide communications industry."

NIST's [full Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2019 budget request](#) to Congress calls for the agency to "discontinue the dissemination of the US time and frequency via the NIST radio stations in Hawaii and Fort Collins, Colorado." The agency noted, "These radio stations transmit signals that are used to synchronize consumer electronic products like wall clocks, clock radios, and wristwatches, and may be used in other applications like appliances, cameras, and irrigation controllers." The specific cut, which would come from the NIST Fundamental Measurement, Quantum Science, and Measurement Dissemination budget, would amount to \$6.3 million.

In its budget request, NIST said that it plans to consolidate and focus work on its efforts in quantum science while maintaining essential core capabilities in measurement science research and measurement dissemination, as well as eliminate "efforts that have been replaced by newer technologies, measurement science research that lies outside NIST's core mission space, and programs that can no longer be supported due to facility deterioration."

WWV and WWVH broadcast time and frequency information 24/7, including time announcements, standard time intervals, standard frequencies, UT1 time corrections, a BCD time code, geophysical alerts, and marine storm warnings. Transmissions are broadcast from separate transmitters on 5, 10, 15, and 20 MHz. An experimental 25 MHz signal is also currently on the air. WWVB transmits standard Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) signals on 60 kHz to appropriately equipped timekeeping devices.

NIST Public Relations Director Gail Porter told Tom Witherspoon, K4SWL — editor of [The SWLing Post](#), which has been tracking

developments — that NIST “is proud of the time and frequency services we provide through our radio stations, and understands that these services are important to many people.”

NIST Director Walter Copan has supported the overall budget request. “This budget request ensures that NIST can continue to work at the frontiers of measurement science by preserving investment in core metrology research,” Copan said. “Through its constitutionally mandated role, NIST performs work that only the government can do, and produces enormous return on US taxpayers’ investment. Translating measurements into technically sound standards across all industries enables effective international trade and US competitiveness.”

ARRL Announces New Contests Web Portal

The ARRL Contest Branch has announced a new [ARRL Contests Portal](#), which ARRL Contest Branch Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, calls “a one-stop shop for all of your ARRL contest interests, offering access to everything from the starting bell of a contest to your post-event hard-fought certificate of accomplishment.”

Use the navigation tabs on the left to locate information about specific contests. Use the tabs at the top to submit logs, manage club eligibility lists, download certificates, and view other information for all contests. Jahnke said the new portal is still under construction, and information on specific contests and other contest-related content is being added every week.

Request for News, Classified Ads

The *BARK* editor is requesting club members and readers provide news items and classified ads for inclusion in this newsletter.

“To provide a newsletter that meets the needs of our members and readers we are reaching out,” said Editor Bill Brooks, KE5OG. “We can better

serve club members if we know better what they want to see in the newsletter.”

Personal equipment for sale is also suitable.

You can send appropriate items for inclusion to [bill.ke5og at gmail.com](mailto:bill.ke5og@gmail.com).

Deadline for copy is the Monday the week before the club meeting on the second Tuesday of each month.

Of course, the editor reserves the right to include or exclude materials submitted.



BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT From WA5ROE

| Date | Net Control | Check-ins | Length | Remarks |
|----------|-------------|-----------|--------|--------------------------|
| 08/26/18 | WA5ROE | 39 | 31 | Add N5CFB, Jon in Austin |
| 08/19/18 | WA5ROE | 38 | 29 | |
| 08/12/18 | WA5ROE | 38 | 45 | |
| 08/05/18 | WA5ROE | 36 | 32 | |

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 meets EVERY Wednesday at 8:00 PM (local time) on the clubs repeater system network. These are good training grounds for potential emergency situations as well as helping new hams in the area to have an easy way to get use to "talking on the radio"!

Our club website (www.bigbendarc.com) has all the information about our 2 meter net. This includes the Net Control members schedule, the "script" (supplied only as a guide to insure that

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 as an operator, please call me (432/837-2257) or holler during the Wednesday Net. The script and "check-in roster" are both posted on the club website for you to download and use as a NCS!

The month of August we had three Wednesday's (no net on the Fourth) and it went this way:

| Date | Check-ins | Net Control |
|----------|-----------|-------------|
| 08/01/18 | 20 | KG5LMG |
| 08/08/18 | 12 | W5RHN |
| 08/15/18 | 16 | KA5PVB |
| 08/22/18 | 19 | KG5BMK |
| 08/29/18 | 15 | KG5LMG |

*****Total of 82 check-ins for the month of August.

If you don't have the time to check-in to the net and participate in the round-table discussion, take a minute of your time and check-in as an "in-and-out" (you're in for the head count, but not participating in the actual net). ALL participation is appreciated and encouraged!

During the month of August we had check-ins from the following hams on the Echo-Link System as follows:



BBARC Club Officers

President – Marvin Voiers, KG5LMG
 Secretary - Billy Roberts, W5NPR
 Treasurer - Angie Otoupol, N5MVV

KD5KC - Mike checked in from El Paso, TX. (2 times)
 N5NYM – Allen checked in from his new home in Port Lavaca
 W5RHN - Bob from Crystal Falls, MI. (2 times)
 K5FRN – Fran from Crystal Falls, MI. (2 times)
 KG5DW – Don checked in from Denton
 KG5HEJ – Al from Terlingua
 N5MDB – Matt from Austin (2 times)
 KM5JU – Ju from Austin

I would like to thank KG5HEJ - Al in Terlingua for keeping up apprased of the Echo-Link activity during our net times! VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!

I want to specifically thank our five (5) Net Control stations for all of their efforts on behalf of the club's 2 meter net for the entire year. It just wouldn't have happened if you were NOT there! Our Net Control stations are:

KF5KMA - Dan, KG5BMK - Chuck, KG5LMG - Marvin, N5BBJ - Bruce, and W5RHN - Bob

When you see them, thank them for all their efforts for the 2 meter net!

73,
 Chuck Dobbins - KA5PVB
 2 meter Net Manager



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

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MEMBERSHIP AND NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

2018 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.

Dues can be mailed to Bob Ward, WA5ROE at 1402 N. Fifth Street, Alpine, Texas 79830.

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

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ABOUT THE BBARC

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 8:15 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

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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@yahoo.com

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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 |

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Big Bend ARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Big Bend ARC Club Meeting, September 11, 7:30 pm, in the Parking Lot of the Hobby-Eberly Telescope, McDonald Observatory, Fort Davis.

ARRL September VHF Contest, 1800Z, Sep 8 to 0300Z, Sep 10

North American Sprint, CW, 0000z -0400z, Sep 9

North American Sprint, RTTY, 0000z-0400z, Sep 16

North American Sprint, SSB, 0000z-0400z, Sep 23

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY, 0000z, Sep 29 to 2400z, Sep 30

Texas QSO Party, 1400z, Sep 29 to 0200, Sep 30 and 1400z-2000z, Sep 30

www.contestcalendar.com