



Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, K5FD

March, 2019 Alpine, Texas

Club to Hear Program on Railroad Radios

Members of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club will hear a report on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad and how they are adding radio gear to their engines. The company has 8,000 engines that run on 32,500 miles of track.

Zach Smith, from Keller, will present the program. Each locomotive will contain several radios that control different functions. The radios will be able to be controlled from remote locations and are designed to allow the engines to be controlled remotely.

The presentation will follow the business meeting. The club meets at 7:30 pm next Tuesday at the Community Room of the West Texas National Bank in Alpine.

New ARRL Podcast Geared Toward Newcomers to Amateur Radio Debuted on March 7

From ARRL

A new ARRL podcast aimed newcomers to Amateur Radio will launch on Thursday, March 7. “[So Now What?](#)” will alternate new-episode

weeks with the “[ARRL The Doctor is In](#)” podcast.

“So Now What?” will focus on answering questions and providing support and encouragement for new licensees to get the most out of the hobby. Co-hosting “So Now What?” will be ARRL Communications Content Producer Michelle Patnode, W3MVP, and ARRL Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q. The podcast will explore questions that newer hams may have and the issues that keep newcomers from remaining active.

“So Now What?” will be sponsored by [LDG Electronics](#).

“No other podcast is really aimed at this segment of the Amateur Radio community... that is being underserved, that is not getting the answers to the many questions they have,” said ARRL Communications Manager David Isgur, N1RSN, who will serve as the podcast’s executive producer.

Topics to be discussed in the first several episodes include getting started, operating modes available to Technician licensees, VEC and licensing issues, sunspots and propagation, mobile operating, contesting, Amateur Radio in pop culture, and perceptions of Technician license holders.

As with “ARRL The Doctor is In,” listeners will be able to find “So Now What?” on [Apple iTunes](#), [Blubrry](#), or [Stitcher](#) (free registration required, or browse the site as a guest) and through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle, or Android devices...or wherever you get your podcasts. Episodes will also be archived on the ARRL website.

Bouvet Island (3Y0I) News - 8 March 2019

From the 3Y0I Website

Important update regarding information sources regarding the 3Y0I DXpedition. Since now on, the only website providing direct information about our mission is <https://bouvetoya.org> - our DXpedition website. Wayne NØUN, responsible for managing our rebeldxgroup.com website had to step back due to personal reasons. He has recently been deliberately attacked by a number of American hams using words "scammer" and other offensive terms and we do all agree he didn't deserve such behavior. Due to the above, we will not update that website anymore. The updates on 3Y0I will also be available at our Facebook pages: facebook.com/bouvetoya.org and facebook.com/rebeldxgroup + at Twitter: twitter.com/Bouvetoyaorg

To all those individuals calling names and calling our project a “scam” – we kindly remind a couple of facts.

Our expedition is covered by private funds and it's been an a very independent, personal project. Unlike other major DXpedition, for instance 3Y0Z, we did not receive any foundation sponsorship and WE WILL not ask nor accept ANY. The only third party money we received up to date (less 5% of our total budget, the entire rest is covered by private funds) come from 100% VOLUNTARY donations of individual supporters - we are very grateful for their trust in our enterprise! Unlike those organizers, we will not accept any unclear rules of funding DXpeditions

by foundations' board members who are participants of the same DXpeditions applying for grants! As for us, the lack of transparency, twisted rules and sponsoring themselves with other foundations' and individual sponsors' funds in simply unacceptable.



Yes, we are in Cape Town for over 4 months now, and according to our plan, this has been a good decision making. Unlike 3Y0Z leaders, asking for almost \$1 mln donations for over 2 years of preparations, but at the same time not being able to inspect their vessel in full in prior of departure (which outcome we all know), we are able to examine each and every bolt and screw at our ship and we personally helped to fix past technical problems and we got involved in preparations to obtain full SAMSA's strict and difficult to pass certification by end of February. Note: nobody rebuked their 2 years of preparations and asking for more and more money that as final result - landed into a bin. We are being criticized for staying and working in Cape Town for our own money, although we do that on purpose: we want to take a closer look at the preparations in person – to make things more than twice sure we don't miss something.

These bitter words of ours may hurt, but we feel like being deliberately criticized and attacked on purpose – just because we've been brave enough to be solitude standing, independent, willing to activate top DXCC #2 and being able to do that.

Unfortunately, it's so clear that there are other competitive DXpeditions' participants among those individuals who attack us and our friends. They are generally speaking – the ones who didn't succeed recently, and now trying to torpedo our plans, using some tricks and methods not only among hams, but also here in South Africa. Actually, we consider that once back to Cape Town from Bouvet, we will write along story about all backstage events and will address them to those rude troublemakers.

As bringing to a close, we fully guarantee we will NOT read all comments like those anymore and they will all be totally ignored by the 3YØI Team. They bring absolutely no input to our plans and their authors may keep their thoughts for themselves – we don't need you! Moreover, we will continue our independent plans and projects. We devote our private time, resources, knowledge, family time and money in something that is not their invention and they have absolutely no rights to impact our plans. They may feel free to get started with their own, separate DX projects – nobody, including us, will stop them to. Good luck!

As a bottom line: if you belong to that group of individuals not wishing us best of luck - please do not call us while 3YØI will be on the air. We don't need you nor your support. Your QSL card neither. We will enjoy the trip – regardless of its final outcome – much more than you, and we'll have nothing to regret. Activating Bouvet Island our goal and sacrifice, not yours.

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club

*Minutes of Meeting
February 12, 2019*

The meeting was attended by 18 members and guests.

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Bill Smith K5WSA.

The minutes of the January 8, 2019 meeting were read and approved after corrections on a motion by Rusty KB5R and second by Chuck KA5PVB.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Angie N5MVB with an end of month balance reported as \$9129.46. Deposits included \$648.00 in dues and \$618.00 in donations. Expenses included 2 payments of \$35.00 to Big Bend Telephone and \$1050.00 for RV insurance. The Treasurer's Report was approved on a motion by Chuck KA5PVB and second by Rusty KB5R.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jim KD5KBU reported that the Ultra Run had been completed without major injuries and that approximately 300 runners participated.

NEW BUSINESS:

Scott KG5LTE reported that AT&T had surplus test equipment that he anticipated would be donated to BBARC.

Rusty KB5R reported that the American Legion would be hosting a fish fry on Friday February 15th to help with medical expenses for the Dawson Young family who had been involved in an automobile accident during icy conditions. Cost of the fish fry would be \$10.00 per plate.

The possibility of including meeting minutes in the monthly BBARC newsletter prepared by Bill KE5OG was discussed. Bill W5NPR reported that the minutes published in the newsletter would be prior to approval. Rusty KB5R moved that the minutes be included in the newsletter, second by Chuck KA5PVB.

The annual BBARC Banquet/BBQ was discussed with the possible dates of April 27th or May 11th. Rusty KB5R requested that Sarah be contacted on dishes to be prepared.

The possibility of wind generators or upgraded solar panels at repeater sites was discussed. It was emphasized that Doug N5HYD and Bill

W5ATO make all decisions on upgrades to the repeater systems, as they are the ones providing system upkeep and repairs.

The possibility of having occasional meetings at Fort Davis and Terlingua was discussed as well as future classes and testing sessions.

The program was on Antennas 101 presented by Bill K5WSA and included discussion on dipoles, doublets, verticals and the G5RV. It was announced that Antennas 102 would be presented at a later meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Roberts W5NPR
Secretary



**BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT
From WA5ROE**

Date	Net Control	Check-ins	Length	Remarks
02/03/19	WA5ROE	44	34	
02/10/19	WA5ROE	45	35	
02/17/19	WA5ROE	39	22	
02/24/19	W5NPR	38	30	QRM made operating conditions difficult

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! *****NEWS FLASH - Chris - K15AXS in South Brewster County has expressed an interest in becoming a temporary fill-in NCS for the summer months, we look forward to welcoming Chris into the fold of Net Control Stations! Thanks very much Chris!!!

The month of February we had four Wednesday's and it went this way:

Date	Check-ins	Net Control
02/06/19	23	KA5PVB
02/13/19	16	KG5BMK
02/20/19	19	KG5LMG
02/27/18	18	W5RHN

*****Total of 76 Check-ins for the month.

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 February we had check-ins from the following hams on the Echo-Link System as follows:

KD5KC – Mike from El Paso
KG5ZPK – Shalen from Mansfield
KG5HEJ – Al in Terlingua (Four Times)

I would like to thank KG5HEJ - Al in Terlingua for keeping up appraised 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

73,
Chuck Dobbins - KA5PVB
2 meter Net Manager

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

MEMBERSHIP AND NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

2019 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.

BBARC Club Officers

President – Bill Smith, K5WSA
Vice-president - Stephen Cook, KE5WCP
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@juno.com

Editor: Bill Brooks, KE5OG
bill.ke5og@gmail.com

ABOUT THE BBARC

Founded December 17, 1974

ARRL affiliate since 1986

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

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 at yahoo.com](mailto: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

March 12 – Big Bend ARC Club Meeting at 7:30, at the Community Room of West Texas National Bank.