



Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, K5FD

May, 2019

Alpine, Texas

Club Meeting Next Tuesday

The Big Bend ARC will meet next Tuesday at 7:30 pm in the Community Room of the West Texas National Bank building. The bank is located in downtown Alpine at 101 E Avenue E.

This month's program will be about the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) presented by Stephen Cook, KE5WCP.

The public is welcome to attend our meetings.

Potluck Supper This Weekend

The potluck get together is this weekend, May 11 at KB5R's house. It will be at 4:00 pm. Email Rusty with what you want to bring to the meal at rustyh92n@hotmail.com.

From ARRL

DX Voice from Mount Athos, Monk Apollo, SV2ASP, SK

Editor's Note: This editor was lucky enough to work Monk Apollo in 2002 and received a QSL card from him.

Mount Athos' best-known radio amateur, Monk Apollo, SV2ASP, died on May 5 after complications resulting from cancer. He was 64. Monk Apollo was essentially the lone DX voice from Mount Athos, the 20th most-wanted DXCC entity, where he operated from his Orthodox Monastery of Docheiariou. Born into a large family in western Greece, he became a monk in

1973, eventually joining the ascetic monastery on Mount Athos in 1980.

When the need for reliable communication from the monastery surfaced in the 1980s, Monk Apollo followed a recommendation to become a radio amateur, which he did in 1988. He had to wait for permission from the Holy Council to operate, however, before he was able to get on the air for the first time in 1990. He celebrated his 10th anniversary on the air with the special call sign SY2A.

Members of the SZ1A club visited in 2003 and began helping him to maintain his station and antennas. Zorro Miyazawa, JH1AJT, followed with additional assistance in 2016.

"We will miss his smile, his good willingness and friendship. I will never forget the times he awoke in the middle of the night to make skeds with amateurs needing Mount Athos for a new one. I was lucky to have him as a friend," remarked Kostas Stamatis, SV1DPI, a close friend.

Chip Cohen, W1YW, commented on QRZ.com, "For many decades, Monk Apollo was the sole operator from the rare country of Mount Athos. A talented and religious man, Monk Apollo combined an engineering background with a deep religious faith. He became an international ambassador for ham radio and one of our most famous hams."

A service was planned for May 6.

Monk Iakovos, SV2RSG, who lives at Koutloumousiou Holy Monastery on Mount Athos, was licensed in 2015 and has been active on the air. He is a member of DX Plus Hellenic Radio Amateur Team.

Peter Vekinis, KH6VP, has visited Mount Athos a few times recently to help Monk Iakovos, and an article on his experiences there will appear in an upcoming issue of *QST*.

ARRL Field Day Gear Now Available

[ARRL Field Day](#) — the most popular on-the-air operating event in Amateur Radio — is June 22-23, and official gear and supplies are now available from ARRL. Pocket [T-Shirts](#), [hats](#), [pins](#), [patches](#), [stickers](#), and coffee [mugs](#) are a great way to acknowledge — and commemorate — your participation in this annual event.

Big Bend ARC Club Member Chuck Dobbins, KA5PVB, is taking orders for Field Day gear.

Encourage club members, family, friends, and prospective hams to take part using ARRL Field Day with recruitment [posters](#) and attractive “Get on the Air” (GOTA) [pins](#) for those newcomers.

ARRL’s new [Radio Communications](#) vinyl banner is the perfect sentiment for showing-off Amateur Radio at ARRL Field Day, any public exhibit or recruitment display. Good for indoor and outdoor use and reusable for years to come.

The complete 2019 [ARRL Field Day](#) packet is online. ARRL encourages participants to register their Field Day operations using the [FD Site Locator](#)

From ARRL

ARRL Reply Comments Stress Need to Update Technician Privileges in a Digital World

In [reply comments](#) to the FCC (comments on comments already filed) on its [Petition for Rule Making](#) (RM-11828), ARRL has stressed that updating HF privileges for the entry-level Technician license “is the sole subject and intent” of the petition. ARRL filed its reply comments on April 29, urging the FCC to disregard comments irrelevant to its petition and maintaining that Technician privileges must be relevant within the context of today’s technological environment.

“[T]he increasingly rapid pace of change in communications technologies, coupled with the national need for self-training in science, technology, engineering, and math” necessitate the rule changes requested, ARRL asserted. “ARRL made its request because of the gap between today’s digital technologies and the privileges accorded the current entry-level Technician license.” ARRL characterized its proposal to update the rules as “balanced and modest.”

“If adopted, there would be no change to the operating privileges for all licenses classes other than those of the Technician class,” ARRL said. ARRL in 2018 asked the FCC to expand HF privileges for Technician licensees to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, and 15 meters. The FCC invited comments on the proposal in April.

ARRL pointed out that some comments filed on its petition address subjects related to other open proceedings rather than expanding Technician privileges, citing comments cross-filed in such proceedings as WT Docket 16-239, RM-11708, RM-11759, and RM-11831. “Those filings should be considered in the proceedings that they address, rather than here,” ARRL said.

ARRL said some opposition appears based on fears of increased interference potential due to additional digital operation by Technicians. "It is improbable that all, or even a majority, of Technician licensees suddenly would develop a passion for the same digital technology," ARRL said. "Our hope and expectation is that many will engage with digital modes on the high-frequency spectrum at issue, but it is unrealistic to suggest that every Technician licensee blessed with new privileges would suddenly appear on the same band."

The comments note the development of very efficient digital modes such as FT8, which occupies just 90 Hz of spectrum per signal. "The experience with FT8 clearly demonstrates the attraction of the digital modes *and* the spectrum efficiencies that can be achieved," ARRL said. "This is why opening up limited digital opportunities to new radio amateurs so clearly would serve the broad public interest as well as the specific purposes of Amateur Radio in experimentation and innovation, as enumerated in the governing FCC rules."

ARRL further said that comments regarding disagreement on the definition of encryption for masking the content of certain digital transmissions also are "out of place in this proceeding" and "should not delay initiation of a proceeding" proposing to update Technician privileges.

"Technology has changed dramatically in the Amateur Radio domain, and the ARRL believes the requested Technician license enhancement would foster the regulatory goals for the Amateur Service and continue to increase amateurs' historical experimentation and service in a meaningful way," ARRL concluded.

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of Meeting

April 2, 2019

The meeting was attended by 11 members and approximately 35 guests.

Others attending the session included law enforcement police officers, students of Sul Ross State University and area residents.

No business meeting was scheduled for April 2019.

The meeting was the annual SKYWARN session presented by Rick Huckan of the Midland office of the National Weather Service. He presented weather statistics, weather events in the recent past, cloud formations and types, storms, thunderstorms, tornadoes, down bursts, lightning and the dangers present for each category of hazardous weather. He discussed the recommended location of storm chasers, stressing that 3-5 miles southeast of tornado producing cloud formations is generally the best location, but that escape routes must also be considered. The SPOTTER HOTLINE was announced as 1-800-597-3320 and encouraged the use of the line to inform the NWS of weather events, stating complete and accurate information as to location, time, date and type of event.

The SKYWARN session, which was held at the Sul Ross-Turner Range Animal Science Building, began at 7:00 PM and ended shortly before 9:00 PM. Area sessions were also scheduled in Marfa, April 1st and Fort Davis, April 3rd.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Roberts W5NPR
Secretary

BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT From WA5ROE

Date	Net Control	Check-ins	Length	Remarks
04/07/19	WA5ROE	31	30	Lots of noise due to T-storms in Hill Country
04/14/19	WA5ROE	32	32	
04/21/19	KE5OG	38	30	
04/28/19	W5NPR	37	20	Condx Poor

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

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 April we had four Wednesday's and it went this way:

Date	Check-ins	Net Control
04/03/19	21	KG5LMG
04/10/19	17	N5BBJ
04/17/19	18	W5RHN
04/24/19	18	KF5KMA

Total of 74 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 April we had check-ins from the following hams on the Echo-Link System as follows:

KD5KC – Mike from El Paso (4 times)
N5BBJ – Bruce from Playa Del Carmen, Mexico
KI5EEZ – Terry from Fort Davis

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 six 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, W5RHN – Bob, and KI5AXS - Scott

73,
Chuck Dobbins - KA5PVB
2 meter Net Manager

BBARC Club Officers

President – Bill Smith, K5WSA
Vice-president - Stephen Cook, KE5WCP
Secretary - Billy Roberts, W5NPR
Treasurer - Angie Otoupol, N5MVV

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THE BARK

Newsletter of the BBARC

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club
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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

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 at gmail.com](mailto: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 at juno.com](mailto: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_dobbins@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

May 14 – Big Bend ARC Club Meeting at 7:30, at the Community Room of West Texas National Bank.