



Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, K5FD

August, 2017 Alpine, Texas

Big Bend ARC To Tour HET

The next meeting, August 8 at 7:30, of the Big Bend ARC will be held at McDonald Observatory to tour the Hobby-Eberly Telescope.

Jim Fowler, KD5KBU, is the Computer Group Manager for the HET. He will conduct the tour.

The HET was designed and constructed with a unique objective: to gather a very large amount of light, specifically for spectroscopy, at extremely low cost.

A fixed elevation-axis design, based on the radio telescope at Arecibo, and an innovative system for tracking stars, contributed to an 80% reduction in initial costs compared to optical telescopes of similar size. The primary mirror of the HET is the largest yet constructed, at 11.1 x 9.8 meters. At any given time during observations, only a portion of the mirror is utilized. The HET's 10 meter effective aperture places it among the world's five largest telescopes.



Work is underway to modify the telescope for the upcoming Dark Energy Experiment ([HETDEX](#)). The addition of 150 integral field spectrographs (VIRUS), mounted to the sides of the main framework, will give the HET the ability to map the expansion rate of the early universe, looking back in time billions of years, to measure how clusters of galaxies moved in relation to one another as the universe evolved.

N5HYD, W5ATO Repair

Elephant Mountain Repeater

Doug, N5HYD, and Bill, W5ATO, went to the Elephant Mountain repeater site on Saturday, July 29, to investigate problems with the UHF link repeater. It has been very noisy and dropping out.

As any signals from the repeater controller would link just fine, signals coming in from the remote sites through the link receiver would have problems.

We visually inspected the antenna and coax and all appeared fine. We checked the coax jumpers from the duplexers to the radio and thought we found a bad jumper. We replaced it, but no change. By this time the link receive was getting quite noisy. As a test we took a hand held and connected it to the receive side of the duplexers and it cleared up.

N5HYD had a back up repeater ready to go and we swapped them out. It is on loan while get an estimate on the repair cost of the clubs link repeater.

In the meantime, the link is back up and working just fine, so our linked repeaters and echo link can all talk to one another once again.

However, we still have the Christmas Mountain, Terlingua repeater down and dead as a post. N5HYD will try to at least get up there for a visual inspection soon, if he can.

Bouvet Island 3Y0Z Dxpediton Organizers Planning for 14 to 16 Days on the Air

The organizers of the January 2018 [3Y0Z DXpediton to Bouvet Island](#) — the second most-wanted DXCC entity, according to Club Log's [DXCC Most Wanted List](#) — said the team continues to refine its plans and, “depending on weather and other factors,” hopes to be on the air for 14 to 16 days. The team will depart the South Shetlands Islands on January 13, 2018, the 3Y0Z organizers said in a June 27 news release.

“Our transit time to Bouvet will be between 9 and 11 days depending on weather and the sea state. Upon arrival at Bouvet we will conduct reconnaissance flights to the island and select a campsite free of crevasses. As weather permits we will begin building our radio city on the ice and secure our infrastructure. Then antennas will go up, our equipment will be assembled, and we will begin non-stop operations.” The team will be at Bouvet for 3 weeks.

Preparations will continue over the summer and fall, including testing equipment under harsh conditions, assembling, testing, and packing antennas, and packing and shipping the Sea Container from Atlanta. The estimated cost of this DXpediton is upward of \$750,000. The DXpediton has a [Facebook page](#). — *Thanks to Ralph Fedor, K0IR; Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Erling Wiig, LA6VM for the 3Y0Z team*

New FT8 Mode Included in WSJT-X Beta Release

Editor's Note: FT8 has proven to be a very popular mode in a very short period of time. It is easy to setup and use and works very well during the bottom of the solar cycle. You can get it at:

<http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/wsjsx.html>

A beta release of [WSJT-X](#), version 1.8.0-rc1, includes a new FT8 mode, featuring a faster turnaround, and it's already showing up on the bands. According to the [notes](#) for the candidate release, FT8 offers “sensitivity down to -20 dB on the AWGN channel,” and contacts 4 times faster than JT65 or JT9. An auto-sequencing feature offers the option to respond automatically to the first decoded reply to your CQ. The beta WSJT-X also offers a new mode for accurate frequency calibration of your radio, improved CAT radio control, and enhanced JT65, QRA64, and MSK144 decoder performance. According to [The Daily DX](#), on July 11, Frank Donovan, W3LPL, reported what he called “lots of semi-rare DX activity” using the new FT8 mode. He mentioned A92AA, OY1DZ, VR2XMT, and YE2IJ on 40 meters, and TR8CA and YI3WHR on 20. — *Thanks to [The ARRL Contest Update](#) and [The Daily DX](#)*

Classifieds:

For Sale: WX0B Six-Pack antenna switching system. Two transceivers in, six antennas out. Excellent condition with control box. \$300.

Steppir DB18 40 meter through 6 meter Yagi. Has two trombones. Good condition and partially disassembled on the ground in Alpine, Texas. Includes controller. Price is less than half of what it costs new. \$1,600.

Also, 3-element Steppir Yagi. Fiberglass covers are faded somewhat but still in excellent operating condition. Includes controller. Less than half price. \$900. Partially disassembled on the ground in Alpine, Texas.

Contact Bill, KE5OG, at 432-244-8863 or bill.ke5og@gmail.com.

For Sale: Alpha 99, Original owner, purchased in January, 2000. Has original 4 CX800-A7s. Works Fine. \$2,700 plus.

ALS-600 Solid State Amp. Purchased, October, 1994, AES. Works Fine. \$650

Ameritron AL-572. Took unit in Trade 2016. Applied AC and tubes and dial lights lit ok. Did not operate. Asking \$600.

Two Kenwood TS-940s, both checked out by Cal Fisher in Dallas. Both work fine. MC-60 mike available as option. \$700 each.

Kenwood TS-180 Transceiver w/speaker and PS, works fine, very nice condition. \$300.

Kenwood TS-820 w/VFO, spker, PS, works fine. \$425

Kenwood TS-850S, no tuner. \$600

Kenwood TS-520, SE, Re-tubed and aligned, with MFJ 4-pin mike. \$225

Yaesu FT-990 very nice, almost new, was in storage for many years. No mike. \$650

Yaesu FRG-7700 solid state receiver. Was sent in for general checkup several years ago, works fine. \$200.

Ameritron ATR-30 tuner. Sent in for checking to MFJ, works fine. \$375

Ameritron ATR-10 tuner, works fine. \$75

Murch 2000 Tuner, works fine. \$75

Plus receivers, speakers, power supplies, amp parts, mikes, rotator, tubes, military receivers, tower parts.

Tom Gius, N5NYZ, 206 West Arcadia Ave, Alpine, Texas 79830 Call 432-837-3679



BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT From WA5ROE

Date	Net Control	Check-ins	Length	Remarks
07/02/17	WA5ROE	41	23	
07/09/17	WA5ROE	35	21	
07/16/17	WA5ROE	39	31	
07/23/17	W5NPR	41	30	
07/30/17	WA5ROE	37	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 July had four (4) Wednesdays in it and it went this way:

Date	Check	Net Control
07/05/17	15	W5RHN
07/12/17	17	KF5KMA
07/19/17	16	KG5LMG
07/26/17	26	KG5BMK

74 total check-ins for July.

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!



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

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During the month of July the net had 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! ***

KD5KC – Mike El Paso

** it's always interesting where our Echo-Link check-in's reside and how they came to find out about us out here!

73's and hope to talk to you soon.
 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

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.

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 8:30 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](http://wa5roe.at.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, August 8, 7:30 p.m., Hobby-Eberly Telescope, McDonald Observatory, Fort Davis

North American QSO Party, CW 1800Z, Aug 5 to 0559Z, Aug 6

North American QSO Party, SSB, 1800Z, Aug 19 to 0559Z, Aug 20