



Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, K5FD

October, 2017 Alpine, Texas

Repeater System Now in Stand-alone Mode; System is Down; Fix on the Way

Due to a likely hub repeater failure the local repeaters are all currently in stand-alone mode and the Elephant Mountain 147.020 site is DOWN and our EchoLink node is DOWN. Recon and repair trip tentatively planned for Sat 10/7.

This will likely effect the Tuesday, 10/3, Hospital Net; the Wednesday, 10/4, Weekly 2-meter net and possibly the Jeff Davis County Food Pantry bicycle event.

HELP! Need Radio Ops for Another Bicycle Event in Jeff Davis County

The Jeff Davis Food Pantry is sponsoring a fund raising bicycle event on 8 Oct. Normally this annual event is a ride from Fort Davis to Valentine so there is almost continuous cell phone coverage along the course. However, this year, with the construction on Hwy 90, they have rerouted the event to go from Fort Davis, along the south side of Hwy 166, and around to the Rock Pile Ranch.

Due to the lack of communications on the north side of Hwy 166 they have requested that we provide radio support for the event along this area. The event will run from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM and will require operators only on the north side of Hwy 166.

I think four or five operators should be able to cover this area. Our primary job will be safety and emergency communication; the Food Pantry seems to have the logistics well in hand. I

apologize for the short notice and the lack of information. I will be reviewing the course and estimating where we might station operators this weekend so more information should be available soon.

Contact Jim at jrf12 at icloud.com.

Club to See Video on K5D

The October 10 meeting of the Big Bend ARC will feature a film on the Dxpedition to K5D- "Desecheo...so rare, so near, yet so far." The video will immediately follow the business portion of the meeting.

The Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at the community room of the West Texas Nation Bank, 101 East Avenue E in Alpine.

Big Bend Emergency Net Celebrates 40th

On September 17, the Big Bend Emergency Net celebrated its 40th Birthday. The net was started on September 18, 1977. Checkins on that day were Bob, WA5ROE; Dave, N5DO; Jim, WB5SFA (now NV5S); and Tom, WA5QZT (now SK).

Since then the roster has grown to 136 members with about 40 or so checking in each Sunday morning. WA5ROE continues to be the net manager and the net control most Sunday morning.

From ARRL:

“Force of 50” Amateur Radio Volunteers Deploying Throughout Puerto Rico

Ed Note: Amateur Radio Operators have once again answered the call for assistance in the Caribbean as well as the South Texas and Louisiana areas and Florida.

More than 20 of the “Force of 50” Amateur Radio volunteers now are deployed in storm-ravaged Puerto Rico as American Red Cross volunteers and wasting no time getting down to business. ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, said the volunteers, in general, will provide communications for local law enforcement and utility managers; island-to-mainland health-and-welfare traffic, which has been ongoing, and contact with the more remote areas of Puerto Rico, cut off from the capital of San Juan and not heard from since the Hurricane Maria hit on September 20. Thanks to fire officials in Juncos, all Amateur Radio operators and Red Cross volunteers have been guaranteed safe passage, food, shelter, and water at any fire station on the island, if needed.

ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, K1IU, said volunteers initially gathered at the convention center in San Juan, which is serving as Puerto Rico Emergency Management Agency (PREMA) headquarters. Their first night, a local church offered accommodations, and volunteers slept on pews that had been pushed together.

According to one FEMA official, the White House situation room is extremely pleased and enthusiastic about the service Amateur Radio volunteers are providing in Puerto Rico.

Since the storm struck Puerto Rico, ARRL Section Manager Oscar Resto, KP4RF, and other volunteers have staffed VHF and HF nets at the American Red Cross temporary headquarters,

despite damage to their own homes. The net covers nearly two-thirds of the island and has been handling traffic to and from the power company, Autoridad de Energía Eléctrica (Electric Power Authority — AEE), and state and local authorities. The electric distribution infrastructure suffered extreme storm damage, and power has remains out over most of the island. Twelve team members will be assigned to provide communication for engineers getting ready to repair the island’s power distribution centers.

The Red Cross Headquarters net has shifted to 24-hour operation, to be ready to assist in any emergency involving the Guajataca hydroelectric dam. In the wake of heavy rain over the weekend that caused the aging structure to crumble further, residents in the districts of Quebradillas, Isabel, and San Sebastián have been told to leave. A ham radio volunteer has been stationed in Quebradillas to provide emergency communication if needed and to maintain contact between AEE and its Monacillo control center.

An Amateur Radio station has been installed and an operator embedded at the Puerto Rico Emergency Operations Center (PREOC). Radio amateurs also have been asked to establish VHF communication capabilities at 51 hospitals throughout the island, so they can have direct contact with the PREOC. Local hams will staff that facility for now. The volunteer embedded at the PREOC is serving as liaison between the PREOC and the FEMA Emergency Support Function (ESF-2) task force, relaying information among the Red Cross, ARRL, FEMA, and the ESF-2 task force. An Amateur Radio team also is in Jacuo.

Two team members penetrated to the westernmost end of the island. “Team Oeste (Mayagüez)” (Western Team Mayagüez), as they are designated, are at a Red Cross shelter in Mayagüez, providing the only emergency communication link from that city to San Juan

since the storm on September 20. They've also been in contact with the mainland via the SATERN, where W1AW was checked in, reporting that they are doing well. At this stage, that team has been getting a handle on the conditions and needs of those living in and around Mayagüez. Primary among those needs was water.

“The city water system has failed over the past 24 hours, and water is a critical need and the first item mentioned,” the pair said in an October 1 status update. They said non-perishable food items, extended-life dry milk, blankets, baby formula, and dust masks also made the list. They met with the medical staff set up at the Palacio de Recreacion y Deportes — a sports stadium in the París neighborhood of Mayagüez — and will confer with the mayor of Mayagüez today. The medical staff also provided the volunteers with an extensive list of needs to be passed on to the Red Cross as well as to FEMA and Puerto Rico's Emergency Management Agency, as well as others who may be able to provide assistance.

“We were told that they are seeing ulcers, spider bites, patients needing oxygen, congestion and coughs,” they said. “They have not had any patients presenting with fevers or other signs of illness/disease related to sanitation however; with the failure of the municipal water system, that is a concern.”

An HF station with *WinLink* capability and a VHF/UHF station have been set up in the FEMA disaster field office, and volunteers have been reporting in by radio from around the island to post situation reports. Radio operators also will be posted at four power-generation facilities, at the request of the power company. Superacueducto, the water utility, has asked for several radio amateurs to help in reestablishing water flow from Arecibo to San Juan. The volunteers also recruited another ham, a Red Cross volunteer.

Four ham radio volunteers have been positioned to accompany and provide VHF communication at Red Cross distribution centers on a daily basis. Two volunteers also were sent to Culebra Island to establish VHF and HF communication there, the first since the storm.

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 |
|----------|-------------|-----------|--------|---|
| 09/24/17 | W5NPR | 36 | 30 | Add W5KMC, Ken, Alpine |
| 09/17/17 | W5NPR | 44 | 40 | 40th Anniversary of the BBEN Add KB4RG, Robert, Abilene |
| 09/10/17 | WA5ROE | 39 | 22 | |
| 09/03/17 | WA5ROE | 30 | 30 | Add KB5TPP, William, Dublin, and W5LND, Lloyd in Big Spring |

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 August had five (5) Wednesdays in it and it went this way:

| Date | Check | Net Control |
|----------|-------|-------------|
| 09/20/17 | 16 | KA5PVB |
| 09/13/17 | 13 | KG5LMG |
| 09/06/17 | 17 | KG5BMK |

46 total check-ins for September (only 3 weeks reported).

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



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

right off the cuff, but somebody can find the info and get back with you shortly!

During the month of September 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
- KG5DW - Don South Florida (checking on Hurricane Irma damage to his house)
- 2 times W5RHN - Bob Crystal Falls, MI. (enjoying fall weather).
- 2 times K5FRN - Fran Crystal Falls, MI. also enjoying the fall colors and weather

Our prayers go out to all in the Houston, Southeast Texas and Southern Louisiana areas affected by the Hurricane Harvey event, as well as Florida and Hurricane Irma and Puerto Rico with Hurricane Maria!

73's and hope to talk to you soon.

Chuck Dobbins – KA5PVB
2-meter Net Manager

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



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@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@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@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, October 10, 7:30 p.m., West Texas National Bank Community Room.

Oceania DX Contest, CW: 0800Z, Oct 14 to 0800Z, Oct 15

Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB: 1200Z, Oct 14 to 1200Z, Oct 15

JARTS WW RTTY Contest 0000Z, Oct 21 to 2400Z, Oct 22, 2017 Logs due: Oct 31

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Oct 28 to 2400Z, Oct 29, 2017 Logs due: Nov 3