



Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, K5FD

March, 2018

Alpine, Texas

Reminder: Daylight Saving Time Begins in Most of the US on March 11

In most of the US, Daylight Saving Time (DST) begins on Sunday, March 11, at 2 AM local time. Set clocks ahead by 1 hour. The start of DST does *not* affect Universal Coordinated Time (UTC), also known as Greenwich Mean Time ([GMT](#)) or simply Zulu (Z), although some transceiver clocks generate UTC based on a specified difference from the local time setting. UTC is the generally recognized "standard time" for Amateur Radio log keeping.

In any case, in those areas observing DST, the difference between UTC and local time will be 1 hour shorter.

Daylight Saving Time this year ends on Sunday, November 4, at 2 AM local time — which is in the middle of ARRL November Sweepstakes CW weekend.

The changeover to or from DST is an ideal occasion to check the serviceability of any smoke, gas, and carbon monoxide detectors and replace batteries with fresh ones, if necessary. It could save your life!

3Y0Z Bouvet Island Team: We'll Be Back

Now safely home in the wake of their ill-fated DXpedition attempt to Bouvet Island, the members of the [3Y0Z Bouvet Island](#) team hope to try again to mount an operation from what's

been described as the most remote place on Earth. The subantarctic Bouvet — a Norwegian dependency — stands as the second most-wanted DXCC entity.

“[W]e are not the kind of people to give up,” DXpedition co-leader Bob Allphin, K4UEE, said in a statement released over the weekend. “The same thing happened when we were trying to activate Peter I Island in 2005. We came back the following year and...we got it done.” The 2006 3Y0X operation subsequently was judged the “DXpedition of the Decade.”

All told, the 3Y0Z team spent a month aboard MV *Betanzos*, the vessel that transported them from Chile to less than a mile off Bouvet to Cape Town, South Africa. Now back home for about 2 weeks, the team has had a little time to reflect.

“We have been to Bouvet Island, and as a result, we have a better appreciation for the challenges we face,” Allphin said. “It is a dark, dismal, and dangerous place. Yet, when the sun shines, it is magnificent.”

The most difficult memory for the team, Allphin said, is the team's final day off the coast of Bouvet, “when we saw the island, crystal clear in calm winds, less than a mile away. The conditions were perfect for our first reconnaissance flight and possible landing of men and camp infrastructure. But, during the violent night before, the captain had made the decision to abort. In retrospect, his call was clairvoyant. The

mechanical propulsion failure on the ship that occurred would have brought disaster if it resulted in some of our men being stranded ashore.”

Allphin said the 3Y0Z Bouvet team is optimistic that it will get at least some of its money back from DAP, the Chilean company that owns the vessel. “That money [with] what we still have in the bank will allow us to begin making plans to try again,” he said. “We have begun the difficult task of looking for a suitable vessel, and would hope to go back to Bouvet in the next year or two.” He said no contributors have asked for their donations back, and several have urged the team to roll over their contributions to help fund the next attempt to activate Bouvet.

“So, if we can pull all the moving parts together, we are going to try it again, hopefully, this time, with a different outcome,” Allphin concluded.

Allphin, Ralph Fedor, K0IR, and Erling Wiig, LA6VM, have served as co-leaders of the 3Y0Z effort. The 2018 3Y0Z team totals 20 radio amateurs, including the co-leaders, from eight different nations and includes some of the world’s top operators.

ARRL Requests Expanded HF Privileges for Technician Licensees

ARRL has 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, 15, and 10 meters. The FCC has not yet invited public comment on the proposals, which stem from recommendations put forth by the ARRL Board of Directors’ Entry-Level License Committee, which explored various initiatives and gauged member opinions in 2016 and 2017.

“This action will enhance the available license operating privileges in what has become the principal entry-level license class in the Amateur Service,” ARRL said in its [*Petition*](#). “It will attract more newcomers to Amateur Radio, it will result in increased retention of licensees who hold

Technician Class licenses, and it will provide an improved incentive for entry-level licensees to increase technical self-training and pursue higher license class achievement and development of communications skills.”

Specifically, ARRL proposes to provide Technician licensees, present and future, with phone privileges at 3.900 to 4.000 MHz, 7.225 to 7.300 MHz, and 21.350 to 21.450 MHz, plus RTTY and digital privileges in current Technician allocations on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. The ARRL petition points out the explosion in popularity of various digital modes over the past 2 decades. Under the ARRL plan, the maximum HF power level for Technician operators would remain at 200 W PEP. The few remaining Novice licensees would gain no new privileges under the League’s proposal.

ARRL’s petition points to the need for compelling incentives not only to become a radio amateur in the first place, but then to upgrade and further develop skills. Demographic and technological changes call for a “periodic rebalancing” between those two objectives, the League maintains.

“There has not been such a rebalancing in many years,” ARRL said in its petition. “It is time to do that now.” The FCC has not assessed entry-level operating privileges since 2005.

The Entry-Level License Committee offered very specific, data- and survey-supported findings about growth in Amateur Radio and its place in the advanced technological demographic that includes individuals younger than 30. It received significant input from ARRL members via more than 8,000 survey responses.

“The Committee’s analysis noted that today, Amateur Radio exists among many more modes of communication than it did half a century ago, or even 20 years ago,” ARRL said in its petition.

Now numbering some 378,000, Technician licensees comprise more than half of the US Amateur Radio population. ARRL said that after

17 years of experience with the current Technician license as the gateway to Amateur Radio, it's urgent to make it more attractive to newcomers, in part to improve upon science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education "that inescapably accompanies a healthy, growing Amateur Radio Service," ARRL asserted.

ARRL said its proposal is critical to developing improved operating skills, increasing emergency communication participation, improving technical self-training, and boosting overall growth in the Amateur Service, which has remained nearly inert at about 1% per year.

The Entry-Level License Committee determined that the current Technician class question pool already covers far more material than necessary for an entry-level exam to validate expanded privileges. ARRL told the FCC that it would continue to refine examination preparation and training materials aimed at STEM topics, increase outreach and recruitment, work with Amateur Radio clubs, and encourage educational institutions to utilize Amateur Radio in STEM and other experiential learning programs.

"ARRL requests that the Commission become a partner in this effort to promote Amateur Radio as a public benefit by making the very nominal changes proposed herein in the Technician class license operating privileges," the petition concluded.

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BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT
From WA5ROE

Date	Net Control	Check-ins	Length	Remarks
02/25/18	WA5ROE	46	34	
02/18/18	WA5ROE	45	24	
02/11/18	W5NPR	47	25	
02/04/18	WA5ROE	49	29	

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 February had four Wednesdays in it and it went this way:

Date	Check-ins	Net Control
02/28/18	23*	KG5BMK
02/21/18	21	W5RHN
02/14/18	20	KF5KMA
02/07/18	22	W5RHN

*I think this is the most single night check-ins we've EVER had. Thanks one and all for the support!

86 Total check-ins for December

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!

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

KG5DW - Don checked in from Denton, TX.

KD5KC - Mike checked in from El Paso, TX.

WB5QNA- Dave checked in from Lynchburg, VA.

BBARC Club Officers

President - Allen Moore, N5NYM

Vice-President – Marvin Voiers, KG5LMG

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 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

I would like to thank KG5HEJ, Al in Terlingua, for keeping us apprised of the Echo Link activity during our net times! Very Much Appreciated.

73,
Chuck Dobbins – KA5PVB
2-meter Net Manager

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.

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.

Skywarn training, April 10, 6:30-8:30 pm, Turner Range Animal Science Center, SRSU, Room 130.

www.contestcalendar.com/

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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](mailto: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 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

**Big Bend ARC
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Club Meeting, March 13, 2018, 7:30 p.m., West Texas National Bank Community Room.

CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB: 0000Z, Mar 24 to 2359Z, Mar 25