



Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, K5FD

May, 2018 Alpine, Texas

Welcome New Hams!!

The Club recently held a training session for potential Technician Class licensees. Twenty-five budding hams showed up for the training. Instructors were Rusty, KB5R; Bob, WA5ROE; Allen, N5NYM; Rob, KE5KNQ; and Bill, KE5OG.

The club's testing team held two sessions following the class. In the first test session they tested 29. Of those 16 passed the test, with two being upgrades, one to General, and one to Extra. Testing in the second session were ten, with eight passing. Of those eight there were two upgrades one to General, and one to Extra.

The grand total was 39 tested, 20 new Techs, three new Generals, and two new Extras. One new Tech became a General on the same night.

After testing, not everyone made it, but many will try again.

ARRL Suspends Registration for Emergency Communications Course

Registration for "Introduction to Emergency Communications" (EC-001) was suspended on April 30, after ARRL learned that the online platform provider for the course — Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium (CTDLC) — is

being dissolved, effective July 1, according to CTDLC's parent, Charter Oak State College.

CTDLC officials cited the fiscal challenges that the Connecticut state college and university system and the state as a whole are facing as the reason for shuttering CTDLC.

As plans are made to move the course content to a new delivery platform, ARRL decided to halt registration. Anyone who signed up for the EC-001 session that starts on May 30 will receive a refund. ARRL has been developing new EC-001 content and will intensify the process of selecting a new platform to deliver it.

More information on the new course content and a new host site for the EC-001 course will be announced, as soon as a decision is made on an alternative delivery mechanism.

Second 3Y0Z Bouvet DXpedition Attempt Unlikely for 2018

The ill-fated [3Y0Z DXpedition](#) to Bouvet Island, halted earlier this year because of poor weather and engine problems with its transportation vessel, will very likely not be rescheduled for the 2018 – 2019 Austral season, organizers say.



“It has become apparent that the chance of finding a suitable and affordable vessel for the 2018 to 2019 Austral season is becoming less and less likely,” the team said in an April 26 news release. “It appears that the very earliest we could mount a second attempt to activate Bouvet would be the 2019 to 2020 season, or possibly beyond.”

The 3Y0Z team reports that it has reached “a fair settlement” with transportation contractor DAP and has received a partial reimbursement of its payments. “Our vessel *Betanzos* is now back in Punta Arenas, and we believe that the container with our personal gear and equipment is intact. We will be arranging to transport the container back to the US, arriving in a few months.”

The 3Y0Z organizers say they want to offer prorated returns of the DXpedition funds in their account, although this will not happen until after the shipping container has arrived and the DXpedition has paid its bills and knows how much money will remain.

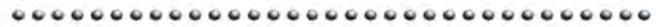
“This is going to be an enormous task, with 137 DX clubs and foundations and 3,700 individual DXers,” the announcement said. “The process will take some time. We ask that you be patient as we complete this.”

The process to claim a refund has not yet been established at this point, but the 3Y0Z DXpedition team plans to offer a choice of a prorated refund, or contributors may designate a foundation or club to receive the contribution. Any “unclaimed” refunds will be proportionally distributed to the major contributing foundations, and the 3Y0Z books will be closed.

“We all are unhappy and extremely disappointed that the project was not completed due to a mechanical failure on our vessel,” the announcement said. “This left the captain no choice but to abort the mission for safety reasons. Please accept our team’s heartfelt thanks for your outstanding support of this project.”

Want to Learn Morse Code from Alexa?

If you'd like to learn Morse Code and you have an Amazon Echo device, you can install the *Continuous Wave* Alexa skill by Joe, N3HEE, to help you along. According to KB6NU, who [described the skill on his blog](#), the current version is limited to 20 words per minute but is still entertaining. (KB6NU)



BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT From WA5ROE

Date	Net Control	Check-ins	Length	Remarks
04/29/18	W5NPR	41	25	
04/22/18	W5NPR	38	25	
04/15/18	WA5ROE	45	41	
04/08/18	WA5ROE	46	35	
04/01/18	W5NPR	44	30	

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

Date	Check-ins	Net Control
04/25/18	30	N5BBJ
04/18/18	25	KG5LMG
04/11/18	21	KG5BMK
04/04/18	18	KA5PVB

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

If you don't have the time to check-in to the net and stick around for the round-table discussion,



BBARC Club Officers

- President - Allen Moore, N5NYM
- Vice-President – Marvin Voiers, KG5LMG
- Secretary - Billy Roberts, W5NPR
- Treasurer - Angie Otoupol, N5MVV

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 April we had check-ins from the following ham on the Echo-Link System as follows:

- KD5KC - Mike checked in from El Paso, Texas. (Three times and once on the 146.82 repeater from far South Breswster County).
- W4JF/mobile – Jeff from Montgomery, Alabama
- KG5ZHT – Lonny from Van Horn
- KG5DW – Don from Denton, Texas

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

73,
Chuck Dobbins – KA5PVB
2-meter Net Manager



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

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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.

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.

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 8:30 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

Big Bend ARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Big Bend ARC Club Meeting, April 8, 7:30 pm, Community Room, West Texas National Bank

CQ WW WPX Contest, CW, 0000Z, May 26 to 2359Z, May 27

www.contestcalendar.com/