



Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, K5FD

June, 2018 Alpine, Texas

Field Day Plans Underway

The Big Bend Amateur Radio Club is busy making plans for the 2018 Field Day, June 23 and 24. The event will be held on the Double Diamond Ranch south of Alpine on Highway 118. Field Day is held at the Ranch's Pavilion.

The club will run two transmitters plus a GOTA station and possibly a VHF station. We are a 2A participant which means we use emergency power with two transmitters.

The club will use the trailer mounted tower from Jeff Davis County as well as the club's own trailer mounted crankup tower.

Food will be provided by Bob, WA5ROE, and Ike Roberts. The cost of participating will be \$30 plus at least a six pack of your favorite beverage.

Final plans will be announced at the club meeting on June 12.

From ARRL -

Politico Article Raises Visibility of Amateur Radio Parity Act Progress, Challenges

On May 23, the US House version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that included the language of the [Amateur Radio Parity Act](#)

(HR 555) cleared the House. The following day, a fiscal year 2019 Financial Services appropriations bill also containing Parity Act language cleared the Financial Services and General Government subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations and now is working its way through the full Appropriations Committee. As a result, the Parity Bill has attracted some attention from outside the Amateur Radio and homeowners association communities.

ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, who chairs the ARRL Board's Ad Hoc Legislative Advocacy Committee, called attention to a recent *Politico* [article](#) that addresses the challenges the bill faces.

On May 25, *Politico* reported, "Lawmakers are making a multi-pronged push to drive the bipartisan Amateur Radio Parity Act through Congress and finally bypass objections from top Senate Commerce [Committee] Democrat Bill Nelson of Florida, whose allegiance to his state's homeowners' associations drove his panel to yank the bill from consideration last fall. The legislation, H.R. 555, would direct the FCC to let Amateur Radio operators get around private rules, like those imposed by some HOAs, that keep them from putting up radio antennas."

Politico cited a spokeswoman for the US House sponsor of the Parity Act, Representative Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), who told the journal that

Kinzinger is “hopeful that Senator Nelson will see its value.”

“When disaster strikes and the power goes out, like when Hurricane Irma hit Senator Nelson’s home state of Florida back in September, Amateur Radio operators become critical to emergency response efforts,” Kinzinger’s spokeswoman said.

At this point, it’s unclear how the Parity Act language or legislation will fare in the US Senate. The measure’s Senate sponsor, Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS), told *Politico* that it would suit him to see the Senate follow the lead of the House in the matter. “I think we’ve done enough that Senator Nelson’s concerns should have been answered,” Wicker was quoted as saying.

Wicker and Nelson are both senior members of the Armed Services Committee, which will oversee the NDAA.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, stressed earlier this month that the Parity Act “does entitle each and every Amateur Radio operator living in a deed restricted community to erect an effective outdoor antenna. Full stop. That is the principal benefit of this legislation.” Imlay pointed out that tens of thousands of ham radio licensees at present cannot erect any outdoor antenna at all. “This [bill] enables them in the same way PRB-1 has enabled hams to address unreasonably restrictive zoning ordinances during the past 33 years,” Imlay said.

From ARRL -

Baker Island KH1/KH7Z Dxpediton Expected Propagation Not Good

The 2018 KH1/KH7Z [Baker Island DXpedition](#), set to get under way on June 27 and continue until July 7, is preparing for less-than-ideal conditions. The sponsoring Dateline DX Association (DDXA) said this week that its 15 operators are

planning to maximize the times they will be available to work into propagation-challenged regions of the world. Their effort will include round-the-clock operation on 20 meters. DDXA has permission from the Pacific Islands Refuges & Monuments Office of the US Fish and Wildlife Service to pursue an Amateur Radio expedition to Baker Island National Wildlife Refuge (KH1).



USFWS

“The 2018 DXpedition to Baker Island occurs during the declining side of the solar cycle where propagation is usually much, much worse, nearing the bottom,” a Baker Island DXpedition news release pointed out this week. “In addition, there are limited hours of darkness in some Northern Hemisphere locations.”

The DXpedition has [embedded tools on its website](#) that DXers can use to run propagation forecasts specific to grid square and “station properties.”

“We have also run these forecasts by geographic area to know when we should be listening for you,” the DXpedition organizers said this week. “The forecasts are grim.” The DXpedition said operators “don’t expect to hear any signals” at noontime on Baker Island, and will use those occasions to take a meal break.

“Our network of worldwide pilots will also report how well we are being heard in your area to keep us abreast of propagation,” the news release added. Operation is planned on SSB, CW, RTTY, and FT8.

The DXpedition's permit restricts antennas to 43-foot verticals. "We will be using SteppIR [verticals] and special-design antennas to take advantage of the saltwater ground," the release said. KH1/KH7Z also will use FT8 to find openings that may not be all that obvious and to serve as a beacon. "When we find an opening, we will put as many radios/modes/ops on as we can," the organizers pledged. The DXpedition will use the latest version of [WSJT-X](#) software to incorporate the FT8 "DXpedition Mode," and the DXpedition has been working with developers for the past several months to smooth out the wrinkles in that operating protocol.

The team has also published its [planned operating frequencies](#). The KH1/KH7Z DXpedition will field seven operating positions.

Baker/Howland Islands (KH1) is the fifth most-wanted DXCC entity, and the DXpedition will focus on providing "all-time new one" (ATNO) contacts.

Kosovo, Z6, Callsign in Doubt

On page seven of the most recent ITU Operational Bulletin the Administration of Serbia brings attention to "the use of Call Sign Series Z6 by amateur radio stations of Kosovo". https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-t/opb/sp/T-SP-OB.1149-2018-OAS-PDF-E.pdf

The bulletin goes on to mention "This designation is without prejudice to position on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ opinion on Kosovo declaration of independence."

The United Nations Security Council Resolution states this as an "interim status" while the International Court of Justice (ICJ) declared Kosovo's declaration of independence did not violate any international law.

Authorities within Kosovo have been issuing the

Z6 callsigns for all Amateur Radio stations within their borders for several years.

Editor's Note: Several club members, including this editor, have worked Z6 stations for new credit as a DXCC entity.

Request for News, Classified Ads

The BARK editor is requesting club members and readers provide news items and classified ads for inclusion in this newsletter.

"To provide a newsletter that meets the needs of our members and readers we are reaching out," said Editor Bill Brooks, KE5OG. "We can better serve club members if we know better what they want to see in the newsletter."

Personal equipment for sale is also suitable.

You can send appropriate items for inclusion to bill.ke5og@gmail.com.

Deadline for copy is the Monday the week before the club meeting on the second Tuesday of each month.

Of course, the editor reserves the right to include or exclude materials submitted.

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BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT From WA5ROE

Date	Net Control	Check-ins	Length	Remarks
05/27/18	W5NPR	39	32	
05/20/18	WA5ROE	43	36	
05/13/18	KE5OG	36	24	
05/06/18	WA5ROE	46	45	

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 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. This summer we are going to be "overloaded" as Bob - W5RHN is in Michigan for the summer and KF5KMA is having eye surgery! We could really use a couple of extra hands to be NCS! 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 May we had five (5) Wednesday's and it went this way:

Date	Check-ins	Net Control
05/30/18	18	KG5LMB
05/23/18	29	KA5PVB
05/16/18	33	KA5PVB
05/09/18	22	KF5KMA
05/02/18	37**	W5RHN

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

*****Total of 139 check-ins for the month of May! Again, I think this is also a new record high number for check-ins!*****

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 May we had check-ins from the following hams on the Echo-Link System as follows:

KD5KC - Mike checked in from El Paso, TX. (3 times)
 KE5SWH - Bill from Kingston, WA.
 KG5ZHT - Lonny from Van Horn (now known as K5RWG) (2 times)
 KG5DW - Don from Denton, TX.
 KM5OE - Lloyd from Houston, TX.
 W5JSR - Steve from Phoenix, AZ.
 W5RHN - Bob from Rochester, MN. and Crystal Falls, MI. (3 times)

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 five (5) 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, and W5RHN - Bob

When you see them, thank them for all their efforts for the 2 meter net!

73,
 Chuck Dobbins - KA5PVB
 2 meter Net Manager

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
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Alpine, Texas 79830

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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

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.

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.

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 8:15 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)

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**

Big Bend ARC Club Meeting, May 12, 7:30 pm,
Community Room, West Texas National Bank

ARRL Kid's Day, 1800Z-2359Z, Jun 16

Field Day, 1800Z, June 23 to 2100Z, June 24.
Logs due: July 24

www.contestcalendar.com/