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## Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, K5FD

November, 2018 Alpine, Texas

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### Club to Cook Hot Dogs, Sell Raffle Tickets Tomorrow

The Big Bend Amateur Radio Club will participate in the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at Morrison True Value Hardware in Alpine, Saturday, November 10. The radio club will be cooking Nolan Ryan All-Beef Hot Dogs for the public beginning about 9 a.m. They will cook until they run out of dogs or until about 4 p.m.

The Big Bend ARC will also have for sale raffle tickets. The winner of the raffle will receive a \$700 gift certificate at the Morrison Family of Stores. Second prize is \$200 and third prize is \$100. Tickets are \$10 each and there will only be 300 sold. The drawing is December 13 at 7 pm.

The Morrison True Value store is on Fifth Street in downtown Alpine.

### *Club to Meet Tuesday*

The Big Bend Amateur Radio Club will meet this coming Tuesday, November 13, at 7:30 pm in the Community Room of the West Texas National Bank building.

We will discuss any business affairs and repeater issues the club has.

The December meeting will include the report by the nominating committee for the 2019 officers as well as a silent auction. Be sure to bring your stuff to the meeting next month.

Guests are welcome.

### 82 Down, Will be Temporarily Replaced With the 23 Repeater

The Club's 146.82 repeater has failed due to water damage and will be brought down off Christmas Mountain. Al, KG5HEJ, made the trip up last week to assess the damage and discovered the water.

A crew, headed up by Bill, W5ATO, will make the trek up the mountain tomorrow to put the 146.23 repeater (the club's emergency repeater) on the air and to bring the 146.82 machine down for repair.

### Well-Known Contester, "Antenna Farmer" Paul Bittner, WOAIH, SK *From ARRL*

The Reverend Paul Bittner, WOAIH, of Fall Creek, Wisconsin, died doing what he loved on October 31, when a tower-climbing mishap claimed his life at his well-known [antenna farm](#). The ARRL Life Member and Maxim Society

member was 84. A member of the CQ Contesting Hall of Fame and retired Lutheran pastor, Bittner was a well-known and respected figure within the Amateur Radio community and a prolific contester and DXer. His call sign was nearly always present in most major operating events, and even in a few lesser-known contests, and news of his tragic death and condolences and accolades quickly spread among those who knew him best.

Bittner was licensed in 1949 and held the same call sign ever since. He and his wife, Mary, WB0PXM, moved in 2000 to “The Farm,” a 120-acre spread in west-central Wisconsin. The first of the more than 50 towers began sprouting there before their arrival in 1982. As a ham, he enjoyed multi-multi contesting and DXing. His favorite band was 160 meters, and his favorite contest was the CQ World Wide DX CW Contest. Bittner’s son-in-law — Paul Husby, W0UC — operated VHF contests from The Farm and was a multi-multi regular as well.

## **New CEO Wants ARRL to Serve All Ages and Amateur Radio Interests**

*From ARRL*

Newly elected ARRL CEO Howard Michel, WB2ITX, is still on the uphill side of the learning curve as he acquaints himself with ARRL Headquarters and the nearly 90 staffers who work there. The New Jersey native arrived at HQ on October 15 and has spent much of his time since meeting with department managers and others to get his bearings, with an eye toward building consensus and aligning people, programs, and services in the same direction.

“I’m still trying to understand what is working and where the challenges are,” Michel said. “Once I understand where the challenges are, I need to understand *why*. Before I make any changes in what we’re doing, I need to make sure

the change is a step in the right direction and for the right reasons, and not kind of a random process.”

Michel would like to see ARRL focus on the future of Amateur Radio and not become the redoubt of a particular generation of radio amateur or interest group. He said, “Ham radio shouldn’t abandon the old guardians of the hobby, but at the same time, it needs to have new things that appeal to people who have different interests and different passions.”

Ham radio appears currently entrenched with opposition often expressed to FT8 and other digital modes and protocols that bend Amateur Radio traditions and conventions, Michel observed. However, as he sees it, technology for the whole of Amateur Radio has been changing, and detractors to advances have always been present. He’d like ARRL to encourage more technological diversity without creating controversy.

Acknowledging the incessant push to get more young people into Amateur Radio, Michel wants to explore ways “to morph some of the League’s processes and services and products into something that would appeal to the newer generation of hams.”

Michel said he’s always enjoyed tinkering with ham gear, building it, modifying it, and repairing it, and then making it do something new or different. He concedes that while he has not had an opportunity to do much hamming as he’s moved around with the military and for academic and business pursuits, he’d like to become more active, and he is presently exploring his options as an apartment dweller. As for FT8, he’d like to try it, if for no other reason than the novelty.

Michel said he definitely wants to encourage partnerships with other organizations with which ARRL might share some common ground, including IEEE.

Michel also feels that radio amateurs need to extend their gaze beyond the everyday nuts and bolts of Amateur Radio operating. "What we need to do is protect the spectrum from competition, develop interest in the various facets of Amateur Radio, and not try to pick fights 'in house,'" he said. "Spectrum is the gold of the 21st century."

## FOR SALE

Offered by Rusty Herman, KB5R

Kenwood: TM-221-A VHF Transceiver  
 Kenwood TM D-700 UHF / VHF Mobile  
 Transceiver with manuals, power cord, and  
 programing disk

Palomar SWR Meter, 0 to 1000 watts  
 Kenwood TL-922A 2 KW SSB Linear  
 Amplifier 160 to 15 Meters with Manuals

Yaesu FT-1000MP dual VFO, HF  
 Transceiver, 160 to 10 Meters with Desk  
 Mike, power cable, and Manuals

Heathkit SB-604\* External Power Supply  
 / Speaker

Heathkit SB-104A\* 100 W HF  
 Transceiver, 80 to 10 Meters  
 \*to be sold as a unit

***Please call 432-837-0002 for details***

### ***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 at gmail.com](mailto: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.



### **BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT From WA5ROE**

Date	Net Control	Check-ins	Length	Remarks
10/07/18	W5NPR	44	28	
10/14/18	WA5ROE	35	25	
10/21/18	WA5ROE	43	34	
10/28/18	WA5ROE	38	33	Add to Roster, KI5BDG, Kenneth

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](http://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. 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 October we had four Wednesday's and it went this way:

Date	Check-ins	Net Control
10/03/18	16	KG5BMK
10/10/18	18	KG5LMG
10/17/18	17	KA5PVB
10/24/18	22	W5RHN
10/31/18	17	KF5KMA

\*\*\*\*\*Total of 83 check-ins for the month of October.

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!



**BBARC Club Officers**

President – Marvin Voiers, KG5LMG  
 Secretary - Billy Roberts, W5NPR  
 Treasurer - Angie Otoupol, N5MVV

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

- W5RHN - Bob from Des Moines, IA
- K5FRN – Fran from Des Moines, IA
- N5BBJ – Bruce from South Padre Island (3 times)
- KD5KC – Mike from El Paso
- \*\*\*Note – September 5 net, EchoLink System computer crashed and system wasn't available\*\*\*

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

73,  
 Chuck Dobbins - KA5PVB  
 2 meter Net Manager



**THE BARK  
 Newsletter of the BBARC**

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club  
 1402 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
 Alpine, Texas 79830

Publisher: Bob Ward, WA5ROE  
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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

### 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](mailto:bill.ke5og@gmail.com) to be put on the list.

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## 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 8:15 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](mailto:wa5roe@juno.com)

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## 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](mailto:charles.dobbins52@yahoo.com)

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## 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

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## Big Bend ARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 10 – Club cooking Hot Dogs and selling Raffle Tickets at Morrison True Value Hardware 9 til 4

Nov. 17 – Club to sell raffle tickets at Porter's in Alpine. 9 til ???.

Nov. 18 – Club to sell raffle tickets at Porter's in Fort Davis. 9 til ???

Nov. 23 – Club to sell raffle tickets at Morrison True Value in Alpine. 9 til ???.

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB: 2100Z, Nov 17 to 0300Z, Nov 19

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW, 0000Z, Nov 24 to 0000Z, Nov 25