



Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, K5FD

April, 2019 Alpine, Texas

Club to Meet for SkyWarn Training; Regular Club Meeting Canceled

The Big Bend Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular meeting Tuesday, April 2 to participate in SkyWarn training. The training will be held at 7 p.m. in Room 301 of the Warnock Science Building at Sul Ross State University.

The club meeting normally held on the second Tuesday of each month will be cancelled.

SkyWarn training will also be offered in Marfa on Monday, April 1 at 6:30 at the Central Fire Station, 110 E Lincoln Street and in Fort Davis on Wednesday, April 3 at 6:30 at the Fort Davis VFD, 200 West Court Street.

The training is offered by the National Weather Service Midland Office. The public is invited.

Potluck Supper Date Changed

The potluck get together at KB5R's house has been rescheduled from April 27 to Saturday, May 11. It will be at 4:00 pm. Email Rusty with what you want to bring to the meal at rustyh92n@hotmail.com.

Second Bouvet DXpedition Scrubbed by Weather

If you are one of the many who is desperately in need of Bouvet Island (2nd most needed) for

DXCC you are going to have to wait a little longer. After a busted boat in last year's effort (3Y0Z) by a mostly American crew this year's effort also was scrubbed Thursday after the crew was subjected to a horrific storm that caused some damage to their ship. The crew was made up of Polish hams (3Y0I) with at least one other member (from Japan).



The 3Y0I team expected to arrive at Bouvet Island on March 26 or 27 however, they encountered a storm and the *Atlantic Tuna's* captain decided to sail away from the island for safety reasons. When the storm winds and seas increased, the captain made the decision to return to Capetown, South Africa, where the voyage started.

The ship suffered some damage including to its navigational system.

Once in port, there will be a discussion about the continuation of the DXpedition.

From ARRL

ARISS Seeks Hosts for Ham Radio Contacts with Space Station Crew Members

Starting on April 1, Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) will accept applications from US schools, museums, science centers, and community youth organizations (working individually or together) interested in hosting contacts with orbiting crew members on the International Space Station (ISS). Contacts will be scheduled between January 1 and June 30, 2020.

Each year, ARISS provides tens of thousands of students with opportunities to learn about space technologies and communications through Amateur Radio. The program provides learning opportunities by connecting students to astronauts aboard the ISS through a partnership between ARRL, AMSAT, and NASA, as well as other Amateur Radio organizations and worldwide space agencies. The program's goal is to inspire students to pursue interests and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and Amateur Radio.

“Educators overwhelmingly report that student participation in the ARISS program stimulates interest in STEM subjects and in STEM careers,” ARISS said in announcing the contact opportunities. “One educator wrote, ‘Many of the middle school students who took part in and attended the ARISS contact have selected science courses in high school as a result of that contact.’” ARISS says enthusiasm sparked by a school contact has led to an interest in ham radio among students and to the creation of ham radio clubs in schools. Some educators have even become radio amateurs after experiencing a contact with an ISS crew member.

ARISS is looking for organizations capable of attracting large numbers of participants and integrating the contact into a well-developed, exciting education plan. Students can learn about satellite communications, wireless technology,

science research conducted on the ISS, radio science, and any related STEM subject. Students learn to use Amateur Radio to talk directly to an astronaut and ask their STEM-related questions. ARISS will help educational organizations locate Amateur Radio groups who can assist with equipment for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students.

The deadline to submit proposals is May 15. Proposal webinars for guidance and questions will be offered on April 11 at 7 PM EDT (2300 UTC) and on April 16 at 9 PM EDT (0100 UTC on Wednesday, April 17). [Advance registration](#) is required. [More details](#), such as expectations, proposal guidelines, and the proposal form, are on the ARISS website.

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club Minutes of Meeting March 12, 2019

The meeting was attended by 18 members and guests.

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Bill Smith K5WSA.

The minutes of the February 12, 2019 meeting were read and approved on a motion by Rusty KB5R and second by JIM KD5KBU.

In the absence of Angie N5MVV, no Treasurer's Report was presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

Rusty KB5R reported that the fish fry at the American Legion in support of Dawson Young's medical expenses had raised \$7800 in meal ticket sales and \$1200 at the silent auction.

Rusty KB5R reported that the Annual Banquet/BBQ would be at his home in Sunny Glen on April 27th. He requested members to contact Sarah concerning dishes to be contributed.

There was no new information on solar panels or wind chargers as possible current options at repeater sites.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Midland HamFest on March 16th was discussed. The HamFest is also the ARRL WestTexas Convention.

The grass and pasture conditions following good summer and fall rains with high potential for grass fires were discussed. Repeater sites for BBARC as well as law enforcement agencies are at risk in the fire season. BBARC needs to be ready for communication activation should a fire be reported.

Bob WA5ROE discussed the need to have the BBARC Communication RV inspected and backup batteries installed. Authorization for the purchase of batteries up to \$500 was approved on a motion by Rusty KB5R and a second by Stephen KE5WCP.

Jim KD5KBU reported that the spring Hammerfest had been canceled, but Cyclefest in September would be held as planned.

The program was presented by Zack Smith on Railroad Communication, the frequencies in use and how the various frequencies are utilized. A diagram was displayed showing the antenna farm installed on the diesel locomotives with 20 or more individual antennas. Zack is employed by BNSF Railway.

He also discussed the Parks on the Air (POTA) program with operators making as many contacts as possible from National Parks, National Monuments, National Historic locations, State Parks and other state and federal tourist facilities.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:
Bill Roberts W5NPR

Secretary



**BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT
From WA5ROE**

Date	Net Control	Check-ins	Length	Remarks
03/03/19	WA5ROE	39	35	
03/10/19	WA5ROE	24	35	
03/17/19	WA5ROE	44	40	
03/24/19				
03/31/19				

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. The script and "check-in roster" are both posted on the club website for you to download and use as a NCS!

Chris - KI5AXS in South Brewster County has expressed an interest in becoming a temporary fill-in NCS for the summer months, we look forward to welcoming Chris into the fold of Net Control Stations! Thanks very much Chris!!!

The month of March we had four Wednesday's and it went this way:

Date	Check-ins	Net Control
03/06/19	16	N5BBJ
03/13/19	15	KF5KMA
0320/19	21	KA5PVB
0327/18	19	KG5BMK

*****Total of 71 Check-ins for the month.

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 – Bill Smith, K5WSA
 Vice-president - Stephen Cook, KE5WCP
 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

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[bill.ke5og at gmail.com](mailto:bill.ke5og@gmail.com)

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

KD5KC – Mike from El Paso
 KG5ZPK – Shalen from Mansfield
 KG5HEJ – Al in Terlingua (Four Times)

I would like to thank KG5HEJ - Al in Terlingua for keeping up apprased 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

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

2019 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.

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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 at 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_dobbins@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