



Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, K5FD January, 2020 Alpine, Texas

New Officer's Elected

The Big Bend Amateur Radio Club elected officers for 2020 at the December club meeting.

President for the new year is Stephen Cook, KE5WCP, Vice-president Andrew "Scott" McClanahan, KI5ANQ, Secretary Bill Roberts, W5NPR and Treasurer Angie Otoupal, N5MVV.

The January club meeting will be Tuesday the 14th at 7:30 pm in the Community Room of the West Texas National Bank in Alpine.

Club Trustee Needs to be Changed

With the move of Dave Cockrum, N5DO, the club needs to change the FCC/ARRL Trustee. Dave has been the Trustee for many years.

The trustee callsign is used for several purposes including responsibility for the club's repeater systems.

Doug Otoupal, N5HYD, is responsible for the club's repeater systems including coordination of the frequencies. Doug has asked that we make the appropriate changes.

Doug will become the trustee. We will need to vote on the following resolution: "Doug Otoupal, N5HYD, be installed as the trustee of the Big

Bend ARC in lieu of David Cockrum, N5DO, as of January 14, 2020."

Doug will take care of it from that point forward.

Aurora? No...it's Steve

Editor's Note: I found the following notice on a ham radio article. In lieu of the recent election of KE5WCP, I though this was appropriate.

It looks like aurora, but it's really... Steve. "[Steve](#)" is a phenomenon that can sometimes be observed in the sky at the same time as Aurora, but is characterized by occurring at a higher altitude, and usually is purple instead of green or blue. It's thought that Steve is not caused by charged particles, but perhaps instead by very hot ionized gases. (Bill, AI5I)

From ARRL

Texas Scout Leaders Promote Amateur Radio as a Communication Resource

In 2017, Category 4 Hurricane Harvey left the region of Texas where Assistant Scoutmaster Scott deMasi, KC5NKW, lived under water. With roads flooded, bridges washed away, and cellular service and power out, deMasi said it soon became clear that his Scout troop's emergency preparedness plan wasn't designed for a storm of

this magnitude. It was frustrating, deMasi says, to discover he couldn't reliably reach all of Troop 839's 100 Scouts and their families to check if they were okay or to organize relief efforts as a unit. Something had to be done.

After the waters receded, deMasi and Assistant Scoutmaster David Godell came up with a plan that would not leave the troop incommunicado after a major weather disaster. With 15 years' experience as a radio amateur, deMasi suggested encouraging Scouts and parents trained to become ham radio licensees.

"It's a lifesaving skill, and it helps us to be prepared," Godell said. ("Be Prepared" is the Boy Scouts motto.)

An initial interest meeting was set, and Scouts were given links to study materials and offered transportation to examination sites, but participation was low. So, deMasi and Godell worked with a local radio club, the Texas Emergency Amateur Communicators, to organize a 1-day Technician licensing class that also would fulfill most requirements for Scouting's Radio merit badge.

In addition, the two Assistant Scoutmasters bought inexpensive handheld radios that they programmed to frequencies the troop would use, so after the class, the Scouts would receive the equipment needed to continue using their new skills.

Armed with their radios, more than two dozen licensed Scouts and adults began utilizing their newly earned communication capability at Scouting events. During campouts, they radioed information to patrols across the camp. On these occasions, the troop practices a "no cell phone" policy; ham radio provided the means to stay in touch with others.

At service projects, they communicated directions to Scouts spread throughout a wide area. Having

radios and opportunities to regularly use them gave the Scouts confidence to get on the air. Seeing licensed Scouts with their handheld radios also encouraged other Scouts to get licensed as well.

"Once the Scouts got radios, others wanted radios," Godell said.

Some Troop 839 members participated in the annual Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), talking with other Scouts in several other states and in Central America.

"You could see eyes light up," deMasi recalled. — *Adapted from a Scouting Magazine [blog post](#) by Michael Freeman*

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club Minutes of Meeting December 10, 2019

The meeting was attended by 19 members and guests.

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

The minutes of the November 12, 2019 were read and approved on a motion by Rusty KB5R and second by Chuck KA5PVB.

Angie N5MVV presented the Treasurer's Report with an end of month balance of \$8451.29. Expenses included a payment to Big Bend Telephone for \$35.60. The Treasurer's Report was approved on a motion by Rusty KB5R and second by Mike KG5BMK.

Bill K5WSA reported that he would be unable to serve as BBARC President in 2020 due to cancer diagnosis and treatment. Vice-President elect Stephen KE5WCP would serve as President. Bob WA5ROE nominated Scott KI5ANQ as Vice-President for the coming year, second by Chuck PA5PVB, motion approved.

It was reported that ECHOLINK had been moved to True Value but not yet up and running. The transceiver was being sent to Doug N5HYD for possible repairs.

Rob KE5KNQ discussed the annual Santa Net sponsored by BBARC on December 5 which drew 14 youngsters. He reported that the weather was very good and that those who spoke to Santa Clause were extremely well mannered.

The upcoming Ultra Run in the Big Bend State Park on Martin Luther King weekend was discussed, as was the need for communication volunteers.

A request from Ultra Expeditions for communication support for a running event to be held in the Davis Mountains on March 28-29 was discussed.

It was discussed that there was a need for a possible class and test session in the near future.

The program was the annual Silent Auction of surplus radio equipment, books, baked goods and other donated items. Much of the auction items had been donated by Bill KE5OG. The auction was successful with all proceeds going to BBARC.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Roberts W5NPR
Secretary

**BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT
From WA5ROE**

Date	Net Control	Check-ins	Length	Remarks
12/01/19	WA5ROE	40	35	
12/08/19	WA5ROE	44	45	
12/15/19	W5NPR	46	35	Added KG5SP Charlie El Paso

12/22/19	WA5ROE	45	45	add to roster WASPOK, Mike, Alpine K7LJK, Joe, Quanah KA5CXG, Bob, San Angelo
12/29/19	WA5ROE	41	44	

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
December 2019**

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 (432/386-0756) or holler during the Wednesday Net. 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 December we had only three (3) Wednesday's, and it went this way:

Date	Check-ins	Net Control station
Dec 4	13	KF5KMA - Dan
Dec 11	20	KA5PVB - Chuck
Dec 18	17	KI5ANQ - Scott

note - the net does NOT meet on 12/25 OR 1/1/2020! Next net is scheduled for 1/8/2020!

*****Total of 50 check-ins for the month of December! *****

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 December we had NO check-ins on the Echo-Link System as the system is non-functional until the antenna for the system gets remounted on Bill - KE5OG's new tower (to be erected after the first of 2020)!

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, KG5LMG - Marvin, N5BBJ - Bruce, W5RHN - Bob, and KI5ANQ - Scott

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

We hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! See y'all in 2020!

73,

Chuck Dobbins - KA5PVB
2 meter Net Manager

BBARC Club Officers

President – Stephen Cook, KE5WCP
Vice-president – Scott McClanahan, KI5ANQ
Secretary - Billy Roberts, W5NPR
Treasurer - Angie Otoupol, N5MVB



THE BARK Newsletter of the BBARC

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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

2020 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.

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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

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Big Bend ARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 14 – Big Bend ARC Club Meeting at 7:30, at the Community Room, West Texas National Bank.