



Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, K5FD February, 2020

Alpine, Texas

SKYWARN Class
Brewster County
Alpine, TX
Tuesday March 24th | 7-9 PM CST
Sul Ross Turner Range Animal Science Bldg - Room 130

Photo by Mike Cibinski
Photo by @Treb3k4
Photo by Melody Mascha

These severe weather classes are FREE and open to all ages!
Full schedule can be found on our webpage (weather.gov/midland).

Club to Meet Feb. 11

The Big Bend Amateur Radio Club will hold its monthly meeting February 11 at 7:30 p.m. In the Community Room of the West Texas National Bank in Alpine.

The program will be presented by Club President Stephen Cook, KE5WCP. The subject will be new ARRL Band Plan.

From ARRL:

ARRL HF Band Planning Committee Seeks Comments on Recommendations

The ARRL HF Band Planning Committee is [seeking comments and suggestions](#) from the Amateur Radio community on its [report](#) to the ARRL Board. At the Board's January meeting, the committee presented its [specific recommendations](#) in graphical form for each HF band and each US license class, with the goal of increasing harmony on the HF bands, particularly between CW and digital users.

"In general, the committee is of the opinion that there is justification for additional space to become available for digital modes, as well as for the operation of digital stations under automatic control," the committee told the Board. "The very changes in spectrum usage that have required our committee's resurgence indicate that digital modes of communication are already increasing in popularity, and the trend is expected to continue or even accelerate. To this end, we have tried to ensure that digital allocations are sufficient for at least a modicum of growth."

The committee also anticipates an increase in automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS). The report further points to "significant use" of modern data modes in emergency communication and said its recommendations provide significant support for the evolution and continued relevance of amateur radio. "Our failure to adapt to these needs could consign amateur radio to the technological scrap heap," the report said.

The committee was revived last summer to consider conflicts between FT and JT modes and other modes. The panel's approach has been to designate distinct assignments for CW, narrowband (NB) data <500 Hz, wideband (WB) data <2800 Hz, and ACDS. For its work, the committee presumed approval of three ARRL petitions to the FCC: RM-11708 (WT Docket WT 16-239 — "symbol rate" proceeding), RM-11759 (80/75 meter allocations), and RM-11828 (enhanced Technician privileges). The committee also assumed that users can agree to sharing arrangements within a given allocation — narrowband vs wideband sharing within the ACDS allocation, for example. It also took into consideration how mode usage is regulated or planned elsewhere in the world.

In terms of mode classes, the committee agreed on CW, NB data, WB data, NB with ACDS, and WB with ACDS. The committee said it considered these mode classes incompatible and that they should not have overlapping allocations, with the exception of CW, which is authorized within any amateur radio allocation. The committee's approach would maintain the existing low-end 25-kHz CW-only sub-bands for exclusive use by Amateur Extra class licensees.

The panel encouraged CW identification and a listen-before-transmitting protocol for ACDS, if feasible. It also decided that a single allocation for ACDS without regard to bandwidth would be the best approach. "We note that this will put responsibility on the digital community to hold an effective dialog on the issue and to then self-regulate the users of this segment to adhere to the eventual agreement." A need for flexibility in allocations is desirable, the committee said, and considered whether allocations might be time-of-day or time-of-week dependent, for example.

"Modern amateurs must expect to adapt to this kind of fluid assignment of spectrum to incompatible uses, using time-based sharing, rather than only a single assignment," the committee said, expressing the hope that as band plan/sharing agreements are reached that they

consider the advantage of "non-simultaneous sharing possibilities.

Reiterating the position ARRL has taken in recent FCC filings, the committee said it sees encryption and open-source as enforcement matters as being outside the scope of the Band Planning Committee.

The Committee would like [comments](#) by **February 19**.

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of Meeting

January 14, 2020

The meeting was attended by 14 members and guests.

It was reported that ECHOLINK would be moved to Bill KE5OG new residence once his antenna was erected. Bob WA5ROE reported that an adequate path to True Value had not been established.

The UltraRun in the Big Bend State Park would be held Martin Luther King weekend. Preparations and required man power was discussed.

The Training Class to be held at a future date was discussed and would be scheduled when needed.

A request from Ultra Expeditions for communication support for a running event to be held in the Davis Mountains State Park on March 28-29 was discussed. Stephen KE5WCP displayed a map of the proposed route. Pam KG5ZIC made a motion for BBARC to provide communication support, second by Jim KD5KBU.

Bob WA5ROE discussed the insurance policy renewal at a cost of \$1097. Bill W5NPR moved to renew, second by Bob WA5ROE.

It was reported that with the move of Dave N5DO, BBARC needs to change the FCC/ARRL Trustee. A resolution was presented for approval that read "Doug Otoupal, N5HYC, be installed as the Trustee of the Big Bend ARC in lieu of David Cockrum, N5DO, as of January 14, 2020". The resolution was approved on a motion by Rusty KB5R and second by Jim KD5KBU.

The program was presented by Stephen KE5WCP on electrical grounding and bonding. His presentation was a continuation of his earlier presentation on electricity, grounding and safety. He plans to continue the subject in the months to come.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Roberts W5NPR
Secretary

**BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT
From WA5ROE**

Date	Net Control	Check-ins	Length	Remarks
01/26/20	WA5ROE	39	45	
01/19/20	W5NPR	34	25	Due to W5NPR radio problems, Dale W5WI took 27 checkins from his home station, plus 7 checkins on 2-meters by W5NPR
01/12/20	WA5ROE	40	44	
01/05/20	WA5ROE	42	35	

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
January, 2020**

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 January we had only four (4) Wednesday's, and it went this way:

Date	Check-ins	Net Control station
Jan. 8	12	KG5LMG - Marvin
Jan. 15	10	N5BBJ - Bruce
Jan. 22	6	W5RHN - Bob
Jan. 29	13	KF5KMA - Dan

On Jan 22 (some sites were NOT connected through the hub station).

*****Total of 41 check-ins for the month of January! *****

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 January 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 first part 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 happy and healthy 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, N5MVV

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THE BARK

Newsletter of the BBARC

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club
1402 N. 5th St.
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

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**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.

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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,

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charles_dobbins@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

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Big Bend ARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 11 – Big Bend ARC Club Meeting at 7:30, at the Community Room, West Texas National Bank.