



Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club K5FD

March 2020Alpine, Texas

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Bill Brook's Passing, KE5OG

One of the major leaders of our club has passed away. William Laird "Bill" Brooks, an Alpine resident since 1976, slipped peacefully from this earth at sunset surrounded by his family. He was 75.

Mr. Brooks was raised on Air Force bases around the world, and enjoyed many beaches and baseball fields. He graduated from El Paso Burges High School, and received a music scholarship to Texas Western University, which later became UTEP.



He volunteered for the U.S. Army and served two tours in Vietnam as an intelligence officer, and was in the country during the Tet Offensive.

Mr. Brooks spent some time as an apprentice in his brother-in-law's print shop in El Paso, and decided to move his family to Alpine and start his own business. It was called The Territorial Printer, the eponym of many championship Pony League baseball teams.

In 1979, he purchased the Alpine Avalanche with a couple of partners. He moved the print shop in with the newspaper, and added the office supply store.

He sold the newspaper and office supply 10 years later, but continued to run the printer.

In 1994, he started researching a new technology called broadband internet, and then started Brooks Data Consultants, the first internet service provider in rural West Texas.

Following 9/11, he felt a pull to once again serve his country, and sought work with the U.S. Border Patrol. He started in the intelligence department, but later became the Public Affairs Officer for the Big Bend Sector, and eventually the entire Southwest border region.

It was announced this week that he was awarded the ARRL West Texas Section Ham of the Year. He was among the first to respond to the tragic Saragosa tornado in 1987, and was crucial to communication during the wildfires in 2011.

Mr. Brooks was a soldier, patriot, entrepreneur, musician, actor, race car driver, HAM radio operator, championship baseball coach, master of ceremonies, and a loyal fan of the Yankees and the o6 Cowboys, Sul Ross Lobos, and Alpine Bucks.

He even did a little cowboying when his friends asked for help with round-up.

He was a past president of the Alpine Chamber of Commerce, a founder of the Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering, and a leader in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

In between all of that, he was the life of the party. He could tell a joke and he could take one.

Please consider a donation to the Alpine Cowboys or the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club to assist them in their pursuits of Chief's favorite pastimes.

SkyWarn Class Cancelled

The SkyWarn class scheduled for March 24 has been cancelled due to the concern of the Corona virus.

BBARC Calendar

March 21Midland HAMfest has been postponed.

March 28 & 29Davis Mtn State Park run, radio operators at aid stations

April 147:30pm BBARC Monthly Club Meeting, West Texas National Bank

From ARRL

ARRL HQ Closing to Visitors

ARRL has decided to suspend all tours and guest visits to Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station W1AW and ARRL Headquarters, effective Monday, March 16.

Conventions and HAMfests Cancelling

Due to the current battle against the Corona virus affecting the country, most events are being cancelled.

New Radio HW Aboard ISS

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS, www.ariss.org) is celebrating the successful launch and docking of the SpaceX-20 commercial resupply mission to the International Space Station (ISS). One payload on the flight is the ARISS Interoperable Radio System (IORS), which ARISS calls “the foundational element of the ARISS next-generation radio system” on the space station. Amateur radio has been an integral component of ISS missions since 2000. The Dragon cargo capsule docked successfully with the space station on March 9. ARISS-US Delegate for ARRL Rosalie White, K1STO, said hundreds of ARRL members contributed to make the IORS project happen, and ARISS is celebrating the 4-year-long IORS project.

ARRL News Podcast

A once a week podcast of ARRL news can be found at this address:

<https://blubrory.com/arrrlaudionews/>

BBARC Minutes of Meeting

February 11, 2020

The meeting was attended by 13 members and guests.

W5NPR.....	Bill	Alpine
KE5WCP.....	Stephen.....	Fort Davis
KG5ZIC	Pamela.....	Fort Davis
KI5ANQ.....	Scott	Terlingua
WA5ROE	Bob.....	Alpine
KA5PVB.....	Chuck	Alpine
KI5EXF.....	Sharon	Alpine
KG5LMK.....	Mike	Fort Davis

N5JOE.....Jim.....Alpine
 WA5POKMikeAlpine
 KM4TYVSherylAlpine
 AI4BA.....David.....Alpine
 KD5KBUJim.....Fort Davis

The minutes of the January 14, 2020 meeting were read and approved on a motion by Jim N5JOE and second by Jim KD5KBU.

In the absence of Angie N5MVV, the Treasurer’s Report was not presented.

Bob WA5ROE reported that a check for \$500 had been received from the UltraRun organizers. Jim KD5KBU also reported that 380 runners had participated in the run, and that no injuries had occurred. A 50 mile run was added to the race which extended the length of the race day from 4:30 am until 8:00 pm.

Jim KD5KBU reported that Hammerfest had been moved to Santa Fe New Mexico.

The running event to be held in the Davis Mountain State Park was still scheduled for March 28-29, 2020 and communication support was needed.

It was discussed that ECHO LINK was being moved to Bill KE5OG residence and should be up and running soon. The move was required due to the lack of an adequate path to the True Value location.

It was discussed that SKYWARN Training was scheduled on March 24th. In the past, SKYWARN has taken the place of the regular BBARC meeting, but it was decided the March meeting was necessary due to the Davis Mountain State Park Race later in March.

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

The program was presented by Stephen KE5WCP on the proposed Band Plan changes made necessary by the increased activity of digital amateur radio modes.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Roberts W5NPR

Secretary

Big Bend Emergency Net Report

March 15 from WA5ROE

Date	Net Control Station	# Check-Ins	Length (min)	Remarks
2-2	WA5ROE	43	51	
2-9	WA5ROE	44	35	
2-16	WA5ROE	44	35	
2-23	WA5ROE	46	40	

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.

BBARC 2-Meter Net Report

March 15 from KA5PVB

Our 2 meter net meets every Wednesday at 8:00 PM CDT/CST 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/repeaters) 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 March report is not available and will be in the April issue. The net control stations are directly from the schedule and the correct station will be in the next report.

Date	Net Control Station	# Check-Ins	Remarks
2-5	KA5PVB		
2-12	KI5ANQ		
2-19	KG5LMG		
2-26	N5BBJ		

No total of check-ins for the month yet

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 February we had NO check-ins on the EchoLink System as the system is non-functional until the antenna for the system gets remounted.

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 2m Net Control Stations are:

KF5KMA Dan 4-22, 5-27
KG5LMG Marvin 4-1, 5-13
N5BBJ Bruce 4-8, 5-20
W5RHN Bob 4-15
KI5ANQ Scott 3-18, 3-25, 5-6
KA5PVB Chuck 4-29

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

73,
2m Net Manager Chuck Dobbins KA5PVB

BBARC Club Officers

BBARC is an ARRL affiliated club

President.....Stephen Cook.....KE5WCP

Vice-president.....Scott McClanahan.....KI5ANQ

Secretary.....Billy Roberts.....W5NPR

Treasurer.....Angie Otoupol.....N5MVV

BBARC Background

Founded December 17, 1974

ARRL affiliate since 1986

The BBARC is a 501(C)3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

BBARC Meetings

Monthly meetings are the second Tuesday of each month unless a special meeting or event.

Meeting location is the West Texas National Bank Building in the center of Alpine at the intersection of state highway 118 and US highway 67. Parking is on the north side of the building. Enter the north side to The Community Room.

Meeting time is 7:30pm CST/CDT.

BBARC Membership and Dues

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 BBARC mailing address below.

BBARC Mailing Address

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club

1402 N. 5th St.

Alpine, Texas 79830

BBARC Web Site

www.bigbendarc.com

The BBARC web site contains reference information about the club and reports. In the upper right is the main menu with the following links.

Newsletters contains links to PDF files of the current and past newsletters.

Repeaters has the reference information and coverage map of our 2m repeater system.

Nets has information and reports about our 2m Net and 75m Emergency Net.

Licensing has contact information for training and testing, and the schedule of upcoming classes and exam sessions sponsored by the BBARC.

About Us provides the officer list, dues information, meeting map and time, and mailing address.

On the right side is the **Posts by Category** drop down menu. Exploring the links from the **Posts by Category** menu is fascinating and contains most of the content of the BBARC website.

POSTS BY CATEGORY



The Bark

Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club

Published monthly on the first of the month.

Newsletters are available by e-mail for members, subscribers, and interested recipients. Send your e-mail address to ki5anq@outlook.com to be added to the distribution list.

For content, comments, events for the calendar, and news, contact ki5anq@outlook.com.

Editor.....Scott McClanahan.....KI5ANQ

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 and managed by Bob Ward WA5ROE. Contact Bob at wa5roe@juno.com.

Emergency Net Mgr.....Bob Ward WA5ROE

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)

2m Net ManagerChuck Dobbins.....KA5PVB

BBRC Repeater System

The BBARC operates six 2m repeaters, all connected via the hub 147.020. Contact with one repeater transmits from all repeaters.

All repeaters use standard offsets on your radio for transmissions (negative below 147 and positive above 147. The following frequencies are for receiving (listening).

All repeaters require a 146.2 Hz PL tone encoded on your transmit signal.

147.120+Covers Presidio, Shafter, Cibolo Creek

147.020+Located on Elephant Mtn, covers TX 118 South of Mile High Road, O2 Flats, Terlingua Ranch, System Hub

146.620-Located at McDonald Observatory, covers Davis Mtns Resort, Fort Davis, Davis Mtn State Park, Davis Mtns, Prude Dude Ranch

146.720-Located on Pearce Mtn, covers Alpine, US 67 East/North, and south to Mile High Road

146.820-Located on Christmas Mtn, covers Terlingua, Study Butte, South County Road, Terlingua Ranch, northern half of Big Bend National Park

146.920-Located on the Glass Mountains, covers US 67 north, Alpine, Fort Stockton, I10 from east-bound picnic area 20 miles of town to US 67 exit, and up to Odessa.

145.230-Emergency Repeater (currently off and stored)

