



**Newsletter
of the
Big Bend Amateur Radio Club
K5FD**

April 2020Alpine, Texas

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BBARC Calendar

April 14.....7:30pm BBARC Monthly Club Meeting, West Texas National Bank

From WTX Section

Here in the TDEM Disaster District 7 RACES and ARES folks have been put on alert that we may be needed to support communications between the counties. We have established a plan on how to meet that need if called upon. Others of you may also be called upon to provide community support. Please let me and David, KF5WDJ, our Section Emergency Coordinator know if you have any requests for support. We will help you all we can.

Given that regular club and ARES meetings are being disrupted I am considering subscribing to Zoom for the Section to provide us a means of coming together for meetings, discussions or Saturday morning coffee stops.

ARRL West Texas Section Section Manager: Harlon Dale Durham, W5WI w5wi@arrl.org

From ARRL

4/1/2020 Circuit Board for Bare-Bones Ventilator Moves Toward Production with Radio Amateurs' Help

Radio amateurs continue to play key roles in developing the electronic control system for an open-source/ architecture, modular, low-cost human patient ventilator. The device itself was designed by researcher Sem Lampotang and his team at University of Florida Health — the school's academic health center — using such commonly available components as PVC pipe and lawn-sprinkler valves. The idea is to create a bare-bones ventilator that could serve in the event of a ventilator shortage.

“The way I looked at it is, if you're going to run out of ventilators, then we're not even trying to reproduce the sophisticated ventilators out there,” Lampotang said. “If we run out, you have to decide who gets one and who doesn't. How do you decide that? The power of our approach is that every well-intentioned volunteer who has access to Home Depot, Ace, Lowe's, or their equivalent worldwide can build one.”

03/20/2020 Long Island CW Club Offering Free, Online Morse Code Instruction for Homebound Youngsters

The Long Island CW Club in New York is offering free, online Morse code instruction for the “many youngsters at loose ends as a result of school closings due to COVID-19 concerns.” The club's co-founder, Howard Bernstein, WB2UZE, pointed out that learning Morse code is “a fun and educational activity for children of all ages that can fill part of the gap left by the current unfortunate situation that has closed so many schools across the country.”

03/18/2020 Errata to 2020 – 2024 Amateur Extra-Class Question Pool Released

The NCVEC Question Pool Committee has issued errata to the new (2020 – 2024) Amateur Extra-class question pool that goes into effect on July 1. Most changes are minor, involving typographical or style errors.

03/06/2020 Outer Space is Your Next Radio Frontier!

You can make contacts through amateur radio satellites, and even with the International Space Station, using equipment you probably own right now! All it takes is the right information, which you'll find in ARRL's new book "Amateur Radio Satellites for Beginners."

Dozens of spacecraft are in orbit just waiting for your signals, and more are being launched every year. This book is your guide to a whole new world of operating enjoyment. Inside you will be able to locate satellites and determine when they will be available in orbit, gain tips for building your own "satellite station, find a simple step-by-step guide to making your first contacts, and discover satellite antenna projects you can build at home.

"Even with just a dual-band FM transceiver and a mobile antenna, you can make contacts through an amateur satellite!" said ARRL author and *QST* Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY.

In the April QST

Here are a few interesting articles in the April QST. Page 20 has a story about a jazz composer using morse code in a composition called "CQ, CQ is Anybody There?" Page 34 discusses a build project using a touchscreen module. Page 42 has a new type of product that uses the Raspberry Pi computer to control radios. Page 46 has a build product that organizes bread board, PCB, and other components into a single package.

From the Editor

There are other club newsletters in our West Texas section. The following list contains web sites with PDF files of club newsletters.

Abilene.....	Key City ARC.....	keycityarc.org/newsletters/	
El Paso.....	El Paso ARC.....	w5es.net	look under Bulletins
San Angelo.....	San Angelo ARC.....	www.w5qx.org	The Kilo-What

Two of the products mentioned in the April QST were worth pursuing. The page 46 product arrived and looks like a good solution to a Raspberry Pi project. The touchscreen display in the page 34 article was not available in the US, so I did more research and found another product from a company in Australia, 4D Systems.

BBARC Minutes of Meeting

March 10, 2020

The meeting was attended by 17 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
AI4BA.....	David.....	Alpine

KD5KBUJim.....Fort Davis
K5WSABillFort Davis
KG5ZIBJudi.....Fort Davis
KX5SPSteve.....Alpine
KG5LMG.....Marvin.....Fort Davis
KB5RRustyAlpine
KB4TRP.....Claire.....Athens, AL

Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by President Stephen Cook KE5WCP.

The minutes of the February 11, 2020 meeting were read and approved on a motion by Bill K5WSA and second by Jim KD5KBU.

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

Bob WA5ROE reported there had been several memorial contributions honoring Bill Brooks KE5OG.

Bob WA5ROE reported that the anticipated move of ECHO LINK to the KE5OG residence would not occur. An extension of the tower at True Value was planned and ECHO LINK would remain there.

A plaque was presented to Bill K5WSA in recognition of his service to BBARC as Club President for 2019.

Stephen KE5WCP said the foot race to be held at Davis Mountain State Park was still scheduled for March 28-29, 2020. Communication stations were discussed. He specified that most of the stations were accessible, but that one would require a long walk to access. He discussed that March 28th was the most important race date and that two shifts were recommended. The first shift was to be from 7:00 AM until 2:00 PM, and the second shift from 2:00 PM until 9:00 PM. Because of interference it was suggested that 146.62 be off line during the duration of the race.

It was discussed that 146.62 had been damaged by lightning and was being repaired. It was also suggested that backup repeaters were necessary. Two repeaters had been located on Ebay, a used one for \$700 and a new one for \$2000. It was recommended that consideration be given to purchasing both repeaters and that Doug N5HYD be authorized to investigate the available repeaters.

It was discussed that SKYWARN Training was scheduled on Thursday March 24, at the Sul Ross Range Animal Science Building from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Jim KD5KBU reported that SKYWARN would be presented in Fort Davis on the following Wednesday.

The program was presented by Scott KI5ANQ on APRS equipped radios. Topics discussed were APRS overview, data capabilities, operating modes, usage, repeaters, SSID, radio configurations, packets at alpinhof, GPS, logging, etc. It was a well presented program with a question and answer period following the program.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Roberts W5NPR

Secretary

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Big Bend Emergency Net Report

April 1 from WA5ROE

Date	Net Control Station	Check Ins	Length (min)	Remarks
3-1	WA5ROE	46	35	
3-8	WA5ROE	36	36	
3-15	WA5ROE	40	38	
3-22	WA5ROE	40	45	
3-29	WA5ROE	50	55	

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

April 1 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
3-4	W5RHN		
3-11	KF5KMA		
3-18	?		
3-25	W5RHN		took over from KI5ANQ after equipment failure

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	.....5-6
KA5PVB	.....Chuck	.....4-29

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

73,

2m Net ManagerChuck Dobbins.....KA5PVB

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club Information

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

- ✓ Select Category
- 146.720 – Alpine (Pierce Mountain) Repeater (2)
- 146.820 – Big Bend National Park (Christmas Mountain) Repeater (2)
- 146.920 – Ft. Stockton (Sibley Ranch) Repeater (5)
- 147.020 HUB (Elephant Mountain) Repeater (4)
- Contesting & DX (4)
- Licensing (2)
- Minutes (71)
- Nets (44)
- Nets 2-Meter (45)
- News & Events (18)
- Repeaters (15)

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)

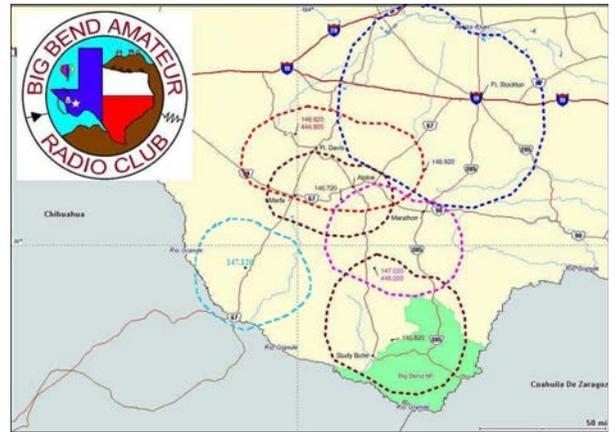
2m Net ManagerChuck Dobbins.....KA5PVB

BBRC Repeater System

The BBARC operates six 2m repeaters, all connected via the hub 147.020. Contact with one repeater transmits from all repeaters. The frequencies are 100 khz apart on the 2's: 146.72, .82, .92, 147.02, and .12.

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

- 145.230-Emergency Repeater (currently off and stored)
- 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 (frequency is "6.7") 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.
- 147.120+Covers Presidio, Shafter, Cibolo Creek
- 147.020+Located on Elephant Mtn, covers TX 118 South of Mile High Road, O2 Flats (the "O2" frequency), Terlingua Ranch, System Hub



All repeaters require a 146.2 Hz PL tone encoded on your transmit signal (CTCSS). Without the signal, your transmission will connect to the repeater, but no one will hear audio. Turning on the CTCSS tone is the most common problem with the repeaters not working for a station. Standard offset is the other main setting. There is a 3 minute timeout built into the repeaters.

The repeaters have some other features. Messages for the PL tone and 2m net on Wednesdays, for example, are transmitted regularly. NWS weather warnings are also broadcast.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The repeaters cover remote areas and should be monitored for emergency calls. 146.520 is the general simplex frequency and the Wilderness Protocol frequency for this area. 446.100 is used by many Brewster County residents. The 2m repeaters are the only form of communication in much of Brewster County. Cell phones have no signal outside of Alpine, Study Butte, and Lajitas.