



Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club K5FD

June 2020

Alpine, Texas

BBARC Calendar

June 9.....BBARC Monthly Club Meeting
7:30pm West Texas National Bank
June 27-28 ...Field Day

BBARC Minutes of Meeting

May 12, 2020

The meeting was attended by 29 members and guests.

W5NPR.....Bill.....Alpine
WA5ROE.....Bob.....Alpine
KA5PVB.....Chuck.....Alpine
KI5EXF.....Sharon.....Alpine
KX5SP.....Steve.....Alpine
KF5KMA.....Danny.....Alpine
AI4BA.....David.....Alpine
KM4TYV.....Sheryl.....Alpine
WA5POK.....Mike.....Alpine
KE5KNQ.....Rob.....Alpine
WA5MHO.....Dean.....Alpine
KG5ZIB.....Judy.....Fort Davis
K5WSA.....Bill.....Fort Davis
KE5WCP.....Stephen.....Fort Davis
KG5ZIC.....Pamela.....Fort Davis
KG5LMG.....Marvin.....Fort Davis
N5MVV.....Angie.....Fort Davis
N5HYD.....Doug.....Fort Davis
KD5KBU.....Jim.....Fort Davis
KI5ANQ.....Scott.....Terlingua

Due to the Covid19 virus, the meeting was conducted on 2-meters utilizing the BBARC 2-meter repeater system.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Stephen KE5WCP. It was agreed that all items of business would be approved by mutual agreement.

The minutes of the April 14, 2020 meeting were read and approved.

No Financial Report was presented due to a reluctance to discuss financial matters on the air.

Old Business

There was no additional information presented on the K5FD registration of BBARC repeaters.

New Business

Bob WA5ROE discussed possible Field Day activities, which have been curtailed due to Covid-19 conditions. While large group gatherings usually conducted by BBARC will not be possible, operations by small groups, family groups and individuals will be allowed. All contacts, points and other scores can be combined under K5FD for purposes of reporting to ARRL. It was suggested that final planning be done during the June BBARC meeting, which is prior to the June 27-28 Field Day dates, allowing for other ARRL rule changes and developments.

Doug N5HYD discussed repairs to the Christmas Mountain 146.82 repeater. He reported that the batteries checked out good, but that replacement of battery jumper cables and other fine tuning were required. The repeater is now functioning properly. Expenses for the trip included a tire repair and gasoline.

It was reported that EchoLink issues are still eliminating normal operation and that other options are being considered. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectively Submitted
 Bill Roberts
 W5NPR

The month of May had four (4) Wednesday's, and it went this way:

Date	Net Control Station	# Check-Ins	Remarks
5-6	KI5ANQ	15	Scott net ctl
5-13	KA5PVB	19	Chuck net ctl
5-20	N5BBJ	14	Bruce net ctl
5-27	KF5KNA	23	Dan net ctl

Big Bend Emergency Net Report

June 1 from WA5ROE

Date	Net Control Station	Check Ins	Length (min)	Remarks
5-3	WA5ROE	51	40	
5-10	WA5ROE	42	40	
5-17	WA5ROE	49	46	
5-24	W5NPR	35	35	
5-31	WA5ROE	49	57	

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.

Emergency Nets

Mondays7:30pm.....ARES section 3873 kHz
 Sundays.....8:15amBBEN 3922kHz
 Sundays.....2:00pm.....RACES state district 8 7255kHz
 2nd and 4th Sundays, listen only

2 Meter report for May, 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!

monthly total.....71

EchoLink Checkins for the Month

Note: -The system has been relocated and was operational on May 27th. Thanks to the club members that got it up and running again.

W5JSR.....StevePhoenix
 KK5ROBRobinPhoenix
 KG5HEJAl.....Terlingua
 W5RHN.....BobDes Moines IA
 K5FRNFran.....Des Moines IA
 KI5YGSteveAustin

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!

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
 KG5LMGMarvin
 N5BBJBruce
 W5RHN.....Bob
 KI5ANQScott

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

We hope everyone is staying safe in 2020!

73,

Field Day 2020

Saturday June 27 1800 UTC to
 Sunday June 28 1759 UTC

Our club's call sign is Kilo 5 Field Day and we have a great tradition.

Club Officers

PresidentStephen Cook.....KE5WCP
Vice-president.....Scott McClanahanKI5ANQ
Secretary.....Billy RobertsW5NPR
Treasurer.....Angie OtoupolN5MNV

Club Information

BBARC is an ARRL affiliated club.

Founded December 17, 1974

ARRL affiliate since 1986

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

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.

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.

Club Mailing Address

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club

1402 N. 5th St.

Alpine, Texas 79830

www.bigbendarc.com

The BBARC web site contains news, events, reference information, club meeting accepted minutes, Big Bend Emergency Network reports and rosters, 2m Net reports and controller schedule, and newsletters.

The main menu has 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 Big Bend 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 are the Posts. The most recent are listed first, then 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.

The Bark Newsletter

Published monthly on the first of the month.

Newsletters are available by e-mail for members, subscribers, and interested recipients. To be added to the distribution list, submit content, make comments, or add events, send an email to the editor.

EditorScott McClanahanKI5ANQ
.....ki5anq@outlook.com

Big Bend Emergency Net 3922 kHz

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.

Emergency Net MgrBob WardWA5ROE
.....wa5roe@juno.com.

Big Bend 2-meter Net on Repeater System

Founded July 9, 2008

Meets every Wednesday evening at 8:00 P.M. CST/CDT

Controlled net format. Welcomes new participants and visitors.

Established byBob AyerKA1AAJ (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: 146.62, .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.

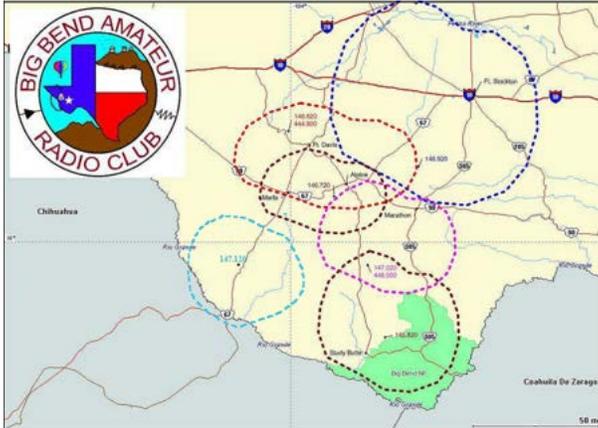
147.120+.....Covers Presidio, Shafter, Cibolo Creek

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). Standard offset is the other setting.

There is a 3 minute timeout built into the repeaters.

The repeaters cover remote areas and should be monitored for emergency calls. 146.520 is the simplex call frequency and the Wilderness Protocol frequency for this area.



ARRL News

With 3 weeks to go before 2020 ARRL Field Day, June 27 – 28, the ARRL Programs and Services Committee (PSC) has adopted two temporary rule waivers for the event:

1) For Field Day 2020 only, Class D stations may work all other

Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points.

Field Day rule 4.6 defines Class D stations as “Home stations,” including stations operating from permanent or licensed station locations using commercial power. Class D stations ordinarily may only count contacts made with Class A, B, C, E, and F Field Day stations, but the temporary rule waiver for 2020 allows Class D stations to count contacts with other Class D stations for QSO credit.

2) In addition, for 2020 only, an aggregate club score will be published, which will be the sum of all individual entries indicating a specific club (similar to the aggregate score totals used in ARRL affiliated club competitions).

John Robert Stratton N5AUS

ARRL West Gulf Division

From the Editor

EchoLink became a part of my life, moving into the bedroom. The radio carries the repeater audio, minus the voices of the EchoLink operators. Their presence, however, is displayed on the EchoLink computer screen. The old country party line is online.

What is EchoLink? It is a radio attached to a computer that allows operators on the internet to use that radio - transmit audio and listen. Typically, the radio is set up for the local repeater system, so the frequency is not changed. This radio/computer is a server, and listed as a station to online operators. The BBARC EchoLink server is station K5FD-R.

The operators on the internet have software, speakers, and a microphone, and operate their computer like a radio, which connects to a station server. The operator selects a station, not

a frequency. Many operators can connect to one server and all be listening, but only one can transmit.

EchoLink has two sides - user and sysops. Both are in one software package, not separate applications. User is the operator discussed above, working on a computer running EchoLink software.

Sysops is the same EchoLink software running on a computer connected to a radio with a radio interface. The sysops computer has an internet connection, and the radio can access a repeater system. This is what is running at my house.

My first EchoLink contact was W5RHN on his cell phone in Kansas. That's a lot of technology between him and the repeaters - cell phone app through cell tower, internet to EchoLink sysops computer, which activates the PTT and sends audio to the radio that lights up the repeater system.

What are some of the uses of EchoLink? W5RHN and other operators far from the repeaters joined the Wednesday 8pm 2m network. I see local operators using their iPhones through EchoLink when they are out of repeater range, but have wifi or cell internet access. The emergency networks can use EchoLink for remote members. The station list can help plan repeaters when driving cross country. A simplex server at your house would connect your HT radio with a friend operating on the internet.

Now let's talk about setting EchoLink up. Start with echolink.org. The downloads page has the user manual PDF and Windows 10 installation. The interfaces page helps with the computer/radio interface options. The computer will need a microphone and speakers.

After installing the software and setting up the hardware, use the EchoLink software to create an account. There is no place on the web site to create an EchoLink account. Verification of your call sign may take some time, it is not automatic.

Make sure the computer audio is the radio interface device, such as USB PnP Speakers.

Another configuration requirement is the internet router. It requires direct access to set port forwarding. The router uses a web interface, so simply typing 192.168.1.1 into the browser address brings up a login screen. A label on the router usually has the login and password. The EchoLink web site page Routers and Firewalls has some help, but the end of the EchoLink manual is the best information. EchoLink uses UDP ports 5198 and 5199, so the router needs to have those two items added. It may do it for a specific computer and only allows one computer to get these packets! Trying this at a hotel may not have success with the desk clerk. That's why most are on iPhones and possibly through cellular internet access.

EchoLink has some other features. One is to record audio by call sign transmission, and saved to WAV file. Multiple profiles can be switched, such as two HAMs using one computer with different call signs. DTMF commanding is included in the software, including linking and unlinking from the internet. The server can also make announcements, such as speaking call signs as they connect or transmit. We will explore EchoLink more in the future.

73 and see you on the 2m net,

Scott K1SANQ