



Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club K5FD

August 2020

Alpine, Texas

BBARC Calendar

August 11.....BBARC Monthly Club Meeting
2 meter repeater system

BBARC Minutes of Meeting

July 14, 2020

The meeting was attended by 17 members and guests.

W5NPR.....Bill.....Alpine
WA5ROE.....Bob.....Alpine
KB5R.....Rusty.....Alpine
KI5EXF.....Sharon.....Alpine
KF5KMA.....Danny.....Alpine
KE5KNQ.....Rob.....Alpine
KI5EXF.....Sharon.....Alpine
AI4BA.....Al.....Alpine
KD5KBU.....Jim.....Fort Davis
KG5ZIB.....Judy.....Fort Davis
K5WSA.....Bill.....Fort Davis
KE5WCP.....Stephen.....Fort Davis
KG5ZIC.....Pamela.....Fort Davis
KG5LMG.....Marvin.....Fort Davis
N5HYD.....Doug.....Fort Davis
KG5LMK.....Mike.....Fort Davis
KI5JTB.....Rachel.....San Marcos

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 June 9, 2020 meeting were read and approved.

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

It was discussed that the usual meeting location at the West Texas National Bank in Alpine was still unavailable because of Covid-19 conditions.

In the absence of Scott KI5ANK , a report on ECHO LINK prepared and emailed by Scott was read as follows: "ECHOLINK work is preparing another server computer. Have the hardware together and working on Windows to strip it down, then configure the hardware and give it a try. I can experiment and test the new server but easily swap it back. When? Maybe next week." It was further discussed that ECHOLINK is working but with issues.

Doug N5HYD reported that repeater duplexers had been purchased from a friend near Dripping Springs that will serve as backup for the BBARC system. The purchase of the duplexers was approved and Doug is to be reimbursed.

Bob WA5ROE reported on Field Day. A total of 1472-1A contacts were made at the Field Day site, in addition from remote sites: 386-1E by Rusty KB5R, 287-1D by Chuck KA5PVB, 287 1-F by W5TRL and contacts by W5WIZ that were yet to be reported. Bob stated there were 10 to 15 hams at the Field Day site at various times, weather was good and that the preparation of meals went well. It will be several more months before the results of the John Dyer Field Day Award will be known.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectively Submitted

Bill Roberts W5NPR

2 Meter report for June, 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 July had five (5) Wednesday's, and it went this way:

Date	Net Control Station	# Check-Ins	Remarks
7-1	KF5KMA	13	Danny net ctl
7-8	KA5PVB	19	Chuck net ctl
7-15	KA5PVB	16	Chuck net ctl filling in for KI5ANQ
7-22	KG5LMG	16	Marvin net ctl
7-29	N5BBJ	13	Bruce net ctl

monthly total.....77

EchoLink Check-Ins for the Month

Our EchoLink is operating again, so check in from wherever your travels take you! This month, we had EchoLink check-ins from the following operators:

W5JSR.....StevePhoenix
KK5ROBRobinPhoenix
W5RHN.....BobDes Moines IA
K5FRNFran.....Des Moines IA
KI5JTBRachelSan Marcos

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,

Chuck Dobbins ...KA5PVB.....2 meter Net Manager

Big Bend Emergency Net Report

August 1 from WA5ROE

Date	Net Control Station	Check Ins	Length (min)	Remarks
7-5	WA5ROE	39	45	
7-12	WA5ROE	39	30	
7-19	WA5ROE	38	42	
7-26	W5NPR	41	39	

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 7255 kHz
2nd and 4th Sundays, listen only

Having Fun With Ham Radio

A new book "VHF, Summits, and More," by Bob Witte K0NR is available from ARRL. I ordered and read this book when club president Stephen K35WCP mentioned organizing a Summit On The Air and Mountain Goat award effort by the club.

This book turned into a gold mine of etiquette for using 2m repeaters. Bob lives in Colorado, has been to Big Bend, and understands the use of 2m in remote areas like ours. I highly recommend this book to new operators in the area.

The main mantra of the book is to have fun with radios, so every topic is viewed from that perspective. It is the intent of "a personal and informal nature" of amateur radio - to have fun!

Some of the chapters with great information include "Amateur Radio Is Not for Talking," "Proper Kerchunking," "A Simple Wilderness Protocol," "Religion and Ham Radio," "Is the Internet Destroying Ham Radio?" and "That's Not Real Ham Radio."

The book contains much information about 2m and 70cm including equipment, contesting, SSB, and Summit On The Air. Operators at all levels of experience will find useful information and enjoy reading Bob's manner of explaining our beloved hobby.

Scott KI5ANQ

Club Officers

PresidentStephen Cook.....KE5WCP
Vice-president.....Scott McClanahanKI5ANQ
Secretary.....Billy RobertsW5NPR
Treasurer.....Angie OtoupolN5MVV

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.

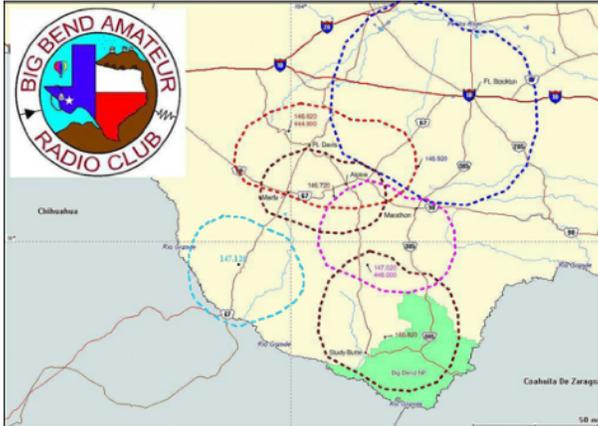
147.120+.....Covers Presidio, Shafter, Cibolo Creek

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

Radio Amateur Takes Part in Historic First Commercial Human Spaceflight to ISS

Bob Behnken, KE5GGX, was one of two NASA astronauts who made spaceflight history over the weekend. Behnken and Doug Hurley were the first astronauts since the 1970s to make a water landing, after their Crew Dragon capsule splashed down in the Gulf of Mexico on Sunday. On May 30, the pair made history as the first live crew to be launched into space in a commercial vehicle, for a stay on the International Space Station (ISS), marking the return of human spaceflight to US soil for the first time in nearly a decade.

A SpaceX Falcon 9 vehicle carried the crew into orbit from Cape Canaveral. The so-called "Demo-2" was the last major test for SpaceX's human spaceflight system, to be certified by NASA for operational crew missions to and from the ISS. Four huge parachutes carried the Crew Dragon capsule to a safe splashdown near Pensacola, Florida, on Sunday, August 1.

"On behalf of the SpaceX and NASA teams, welcome back to planet Earth," SpaceX Engineer Michael Heiman radioed to the crew after their landing. "And thanks for flying SpaceX."

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine proclaimed that the US was entering a new era of human spaceflight, noting that NASA was no longer the only option for US space travel. "We are going to be a customer," he said. NASA has contracted with two companies — SpaceX and Boeing — to ferry astronaut crews to and from the ISS.

While part of the space station crew for 2 months, Behnken and Astronaut Chris Cassidy, KF5KDR, the sole American on board when their *Endeavour* capsule docked, carried out four spacewalks to install new batteries on the ISS.

The SpaceX Crew Dragon vehicle was designed for short-term missions, and Behnken and Hurley's mission had only been expected to last a week. As a result, Behnken did not receive Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) training on the radio gear in the Russian sector. NASA subsequently decided to monitor the mission and make a

decision on how long the Crew Dragon would stay. Cassidy fielded all ARISS school contacts.

From the Editor

How can people get in trouble out here?

This is the basic question asked by a group of concerned residents on the Terlingua Ranch. Many of the challenges to life in Brewster, Presidio, and Jeff Davis counties can use the help of HAM radio. Let's explore answers to this question.

1. Serious - The distance between places (stores, fuel) is generally 30 to 50 miles. Cell phone reception is limited to towns, not the roads away from town. The remoteness, proximity to the border, and desert environment add what the Olympic divers call degree of difficulty to every situation.
2. Vehicular - The best way to destroy a vehicle is to take it to south county. Off the pavement, rocks, thorns, mud and other adventures await vehicles. Breaking down, flats, battery issues, and overheating occur more frequently.
3. Medical - On top of the normal medical emergencies are the bonus of flora and fauna, remoteness, and desert heat in the summer. Helicopter insurance is highly recommended, but the chopper only reaches down 118 to trash can hill, an hour drive up from Terlingua. There are six species of rattlesnakes in the area, including the Mojave, short on temper and long on venom, as David Alloway quips.
4. Navigational - Terlingua Ranch backroads, South County Road, Agua Fria Road and many others have the exceptional ability to get super lost while seeing 50 miles. The chances of seeing another vehicle are remote. Navigation problems quickly lead to no fuel problems.
5. Weather - There is no NWS radar for south county, so keep looking up. The power failing (and internet access) is the early warning sign. There is the bonus of flash flood from a storm two days ago 100 miles away. And, again, mud.
6. Criminal - The area may have more ATF, DEA, ICE, Border Patrol, NPS Park Rangers, TPWD Park Rangers, TPWD Game Wardens, State Troopers, and Sheriffs than residents. There is a reason for this LE presence. And our added crime bonus is that people come out here thinking they can do anything they want. Lawrence Parent's book "Death in the Big Bend" is a mosaic of the crazy things people do.
7. Multiple - Last but not least is the reality that all bad situation are complex, so experiencing all the above at once, is normal. Maybe luck is only having one at a time.

So how does HAM radio help? The 2m repeaters are nearly always accessible and working. People are listening, many at home with a phone handy. The repeaters broadcast NWS warnings. The 2m net provides weekly practice on the repeaters. Daily use of the HT creates competence so that in the moment of an emergency, operating the radio is second nature.

HAM pursuits breed preparation, knowledge, equipment, and involvement. The vehicle will have the go bag. The radio has emergency power. GPS is integrated into the radio gear. Monitoring catches the weather alerts, calls for help, and familiarity with operators in the area. We are the ants!

Scott KI5ANQ