



THE BARK



Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club K5FD

December 2020

Alpine, Texas

December 8 BBARC Monthly Meeting

2m repeater system

7:30 pm (7:00 early checkin with W5NPR)

BBARC Minutes of Meeting

November 10, 2020

The meeting was attended by 20 members and guests.

- W5NPR.....Bill.....Alpine
- KA5PVB.....Chuck.....Alpine
- KB5R.....Rusty.....Alpine
- KF5KMA.....Dan.....Alpine
- KI5EXF.....Sharon.....Alpine
- WA5MHO.....Dean.....Alpine
- KE5KNQ.....Rob.....Alpine
- KX5SP.....Steve.....Alpine
- KG5LMG.....Marvin.....Fort Davis
- K5WSA.....Bill.....Fort Davis
- KG5ZIC.....Pamela.....Fort Davis
- KE5WCP.....Stephen.....Fort Davis
- N5HYD.....Doug.....Fort Davis
- N5MVV.....Angie.....Fort Davis
- KD5KBU.....Jim.....Fort Davis
- KG5ZIB.....Judi.....Fort Davis
- K5AAA.....Ron.....Fort Davis
- KI5JTB.....Rachel.....San Marcos
- KG5HEJ.....Al.....Terlingua
- KI5ANQ.....Scott.....Terlingua

Due to the Covid-19 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.

The minutes of the October 13, 2020 meeting were read and approved.

Angie N5MVV reported a current balance of \$9,886.11. Activity included two payments to Big Bend Telephone for \$35.70.

Doug N5HYD presented an estimate on repairs to the Christmas Mountain 146.82 repeater as follows: \$388.99 for WindyNation 300 watt 12 volt Polycrystalline Solar Panel complete kit with LCD PWM Solar Charge Controller Upgrade to 10AWG; \$360.00 for three 24MD-DL Deep Cycle Marine Batteries and \$100.00 for miscellaneous expenses for UTV, fuel, sundry and other expenses. By mutual agreement, Doug was authorized to purchase the needed items and proceed with the repairs.

Scott KI5ANQ reported continued efforts on his part to upgrade the EchoLink system. He discussed the eventual logging of EchoLink users as an intended upgrade. He also discussed the addition of APRS to the EchoLink system.

The estate sale of N5NYZ, Tom Guis, who had become a Silent Key, was discussed. The sale was held on October 24th from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM and was limited to ham operators. The sale went well although much of the items available remain unsold. A second sale is scheduled for November 13th and will be open to the public. In addition to radio equipment, parts and supplies, a storage building is available priced at \$3200.

It was discussed it was unlikely that the meeting room at the

West Texas National Bank would reopen any time soon and the BBARC meetings would most likely continue on 2-meters. Should there be any changes, an announcement would be forthcoming.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectively Submitted

Bill Roberts W5NPR

2 Meter Net Report

November 2020 from Chuck KA5PVB

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 (432/386-8052) 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 November we had three (3) Wednesday's, and it went this way:

Date	Check Ins	Net Station	Net Ctlr
Nov 4	12	KG5LMG	Marvin
Nov 11	19	N5BBJ	Bruce
Nov 18	14	W5RHN	Bob

monthly total: 45

A hearty thanks to all for your participation in support of our net activities!!!!!!!!!!!!

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!

EchoLink System check-ins are as follows:

KI5JTB - Rachel from San Marcos, TX. 3 times.

KG5HEJ - Al from Terlingua, TX 2 times.

KG5DW - Don in Denton, TX.

A big THANKS to Scott for his work on the EchoLink system, it really sounds good and the long time delay seems to be gone!

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 is staying safe in 2020!

73,

Chuck Dobbins - KA5PVB, 2 meter Net Manage

Big Bend Emergency Net Report

November 2020 from Bob WA5ROE

Date	Net Station	Check Ins	Length (min)	Remarks
Nov 1	WA5ROE	49	40	net control had a high noise level, W5NPR, others had to relay
Nov 8	WA5ROE	47	43	
Nov 15	WA5ROE	53	45	conditions rough, relays needed
Nov 22	WA5ROE	53	48	
Nov 29	W5NPR	44	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.

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

EchoLink Report for K5FD-R

November 2020 from Scott KI5ANQ

EchoLink station has been rather steady this month. Still has the regular loss of link and occasional computer crash. Focus is to get the new computer running!

Total Number of Connections: 84

Users With Most Connections:

7: KI5JTB

6: W5LXS, N5FAZ-R

5: KI5YG, K5RIC-L

APRS Report

November 2020 from Scott KI5ANQ

New antenna arrived, a 10' vertical, and the feedline. Tested FM broadcast from the site and picking up many stations. APRS is 144.39 in the 2m band, so close to broadcast FM and TV. Mobile APRS from the site has an incredible range.

Web Site Report

November 2020 from Scott KI5ANQ

2m Net Controller Schedule for 2021 is up.

A new 2m roster is available as a printable PDF file.

The web site maintains monthly reports for the approved meeting minutes, 2m net reports, and EchoLink reports. The BBEN reports are done weekly. Other types of reports can easily be added to the web site.

The web site page **about the club** needs updating to reflect more of the content covered in the newsletter. Much of the web site and newsletter mirror each other.

ARRL News

FCC to Require Email Address

In 2021, the FCC will require **a mailing address and email address** to contact licensees.

New Book'

"The Care and Feeding of Transmission Lines" by Joel Hallas W1ZR covers all possible types of feedlines, unusual cases from his military career, details on cable and connectors, and descriptions of installing connectors and running conduit underground. For the experienced Ham, much of this is old hat, but for the new Ham, they will determine what is the best solution for their antenna location and how to install it correctly.

The waveguide transmission line discussion mentions a RADAR site using square tubing. The side of the tube has to be 1/2 wavelength. The RADAR operated at 450 Mhz, so it had 4" square tubing for transmission lines, and most likely copper!

QST Article

The December issue has an article about HamWAN. WAN, wide area network, is Ethernet through some physical transport that covers distance, such as microwave RF, laser, fiber optic, or dialup modem (TNC). Steve Aberle WA7PTM compares modern network speeds of cell phones and home systems to Ham's using TNCs and APRS at 1200 baud. The step up for Hams and emergency data communications is HamWAN (hamwan.org). The system uses 5cm amateur band with microwave radios and dishes for a point to point network backbone. Speeds on the Puget Sound system approached 300 Mbps. High speed fiber at home is 50 Mbps. The point to point communications are the line of site dish antennas. If Hams could start working races with HamWAN, that would greatly change tracking and reporting from checkpoints, possibly automate it. Then the clubs would be ready for emergency work.

QEX Article

This quarter's QEX magazine had an article about remote controlling an HF base station by Harry Bloomberg W3YZ. The exciting part is all the components involved. These components could be used for all kinds of projects.

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BBRC Repeater System

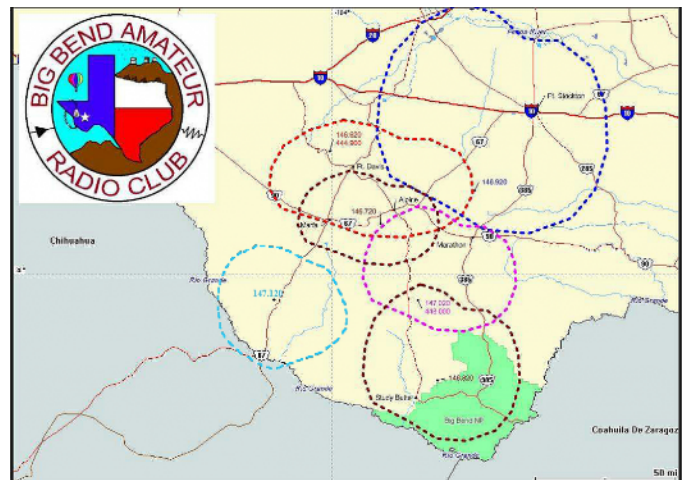
The BBARC operates six 2m repeaters, all connected via the hub 147.020. Contact with one repeater transmits from all repeaters. The frequencies are 100 kHz apart on the 2's: 146.62, .72, .82, .92, 147.02, and .12.

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, Old Ore Road
- 146.920-.....Located on the Glass Mountains, covers US 67 north, Alpine, Fort Stockton, I10 from picnic area 20 miles east of town to US 67 exit west of town, Odessa
- 147.120+Covers Presidio, Shafter, Cibolo Creek
- 147.020+System hub. Located on Elephant Mtn, covers TX 118 South of Mile High Road, O2 Flats (the "O2" frequency), Terlingua Ranch

All repeaters require a 146.2 Hz squelch tone on your transmit signal (CTCSS) and standard offsets. There is a 3 minute timeout. No digital modes, make sure those are off.

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.



EchoLink Station K5FD-R Alpine

Access the 2m repeater system through the club's EchoLink station. Get the EchoLink application on your smartphone or a base station with a Windows computer. echolink.org

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.

EchoLink has information about the club's K5FD-R EchoLink station, logs, and setting up EchoLink.

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 Mgr.....Bob 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 by.....Bob AyerKA1AAJ (SK)
2m Net Manager.....Chuck Dobbins ...KA5PVB

(ARRL News continued)

This project integrated many functions to achieve its goal, a road map for more journeys. The project is based on the Raspberry Pi and uses shell and PERL scripts. Everything is available for download.

Check Your ARRL Subscription Settings

Some important information is coming out of ARRL and the WTX region through automated emails. They include the ARRL email newsletter, the ARES letter, information from the division director, and legislative updates.

To check your profile settings, go to arrl.org and select **Edit Your Profile** at the top. There are some tabs, so select **Edit Email Subscriptions**. Now you will see the selections. Lots of checkboxes. Be sure to **Save!**

From the Editor

Requiring an official email address by the FCC will really help clubs with contacting members. The BBARC contacts members through email, 2m repeaters, and the web site. The club newsletter is sent out by email, and the newsletter distribution is used for important club messages. With the FCC change, the club roster can now include a reliable email address for each member.

Scott KI5ANQ