



# Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club K5FD

January 2021

Alpine, Texas

**January 12 BBARC Monthly Meeting**

**2m repeater system**

**7:30 pm (7:00 early checkin with KI5ANQ)**

**BBARC Minutes of Meeting**

*December 8, 2020*

The meeting was attended by 19 members and guests.

- W5NPR.....Bill.....Alpine
- WA5ROE.....Bob.....Alpine
- KA5PVB.....Chuck.....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
- KG5ZIB.....Judi.....Fort Davis
- KI5JTB.....Rachel.....San Marcos
- KG5HEJ.....Al.....Terlingua
- KI5ANQ.....Scott.....Terlingua
- KB4TRP.....Claire

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 November 10, 2020 meeting were read and approved.

Angie N5MVV reported a current balance of \$9,814.63. Activity included one payment to Big Bend Telephone for \$35.74.

Bob WA5ROE presented the Nominating Committee Report as follows: President, Stephen KE5WCP; Vice-President, Bill W5NPR; Secretary, Scott KI5ANQ; and Treasurer, Angie N5MVV. There were no nominations from the floor and the officers nominated were elected by acclamation, with duties to begin on January 1, 2021.

Doug N5HYD reported on repairs to the Christmas Mountain 146.82 repeater and cost of batteries, charge controller, solar panels and miscellaneous expenses. He reported that all repairs and replacements had been accomplished except replacement of solar panels, which would be done at a later date. Doug had presented an estimated cost of approximately \$850.00. When asked if the cost estimate had been sufficient to cover actual cost, Doug reported that actual cost had exceeded the original estimate by \$130.00. The cost overrun was approved and Doug was instructed to arrange for reimbursement.

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 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 scheduled for November 13th was cancelled due to Covid-19 conditions in Alpine and would be rescheduled at a later date.

Field Day results which were announced in the December issue of QST magazine were discussed. BBARC placed 15th nationally in the 1A Club (emergency power) category with 2642 total points. Also added to the BBARC score were individual operators that credited their scores to BBARC which included: W5TRL, 2122, Home Station Commercial Power 2D; KM4TYV, 1194, Home Station Emergency Power 1D; W5WIZ, 830 Home Station Emergency Power 1E; KB5R, 822 Home Station Emergency Power 1E; and KA5PVB, 158, Home Station Emergency Power 1E. The Grand Total for BBARC with these additions was 7767.

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.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bill Roberts W5NPR

## 2 Meter Net Report

*December 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](http://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 December we had three (3) Wednesday's, and it went this way:

Date	Check Ins	Net Station	Net Ctr
Dec 2	21	KF5KMA	DAN
Dec 9	25	KA5PVB	Chuck
Dec 16	16	KI5EXF	Sharon

monthly total: 62

Sharon filled in for Scott KI5ANQ as her first net control experience. She did a very commendable job!!!

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.

KI5RIC - Ric from Ruidoso, NM.

W5JSR and KK5ROB - Steve and Robin from Peoria, AZ (Phoenix suburb), 2 times.

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, KI5ANQ - Scott, and KI5EXF - Sharon.

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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year if this gets published before the holidays, if not, hope your holidays were goo73, Chuck Dobbins - KA5PVB, 2 meter Net Manage

## Big Bend Emergency Net Report

*December 2020 from Bob WA5ROE*

Date	Net Station	Check Ins	Length (min)	Remarks
Dec 6	WA5ROE	45	35	
Dec 13	WA5ROE	52	45	assist from W5NPR
Dec 20	WA5ROE	48	45	
Dec 27	W5NPR	45	45	

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

Mondays .....7:30pm.....ARES section 3873 kHz

Sundays.....8:15am .....BBEN 3922kHz

Sundays.....2:00pm.....RACES state district 8 7255 kHz  
2nd and 4th Sundays, listen only

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## EchoLink Report for K5FD-R

*December 2020 from Scott KI5ANQ*

EchoLink station had a few problems this month. One new one was the audio (radio speaker and radio mic) USB devices switched when a new USB audio device was plugged in. A new 2m base station was installed, Kenwood TMD710, along with a 6db gain antenna. The new station computer is running Window 10, an Intel NUC, with audio and serial port communications to the TMD710. After all new hardware, still has the same problems - audio assignment and levels, and losing the link to the EchoLink servers.

Total Number of Connections: 110

Users With Most Connections:

Gold Medal at 9.. KC5WFH and KG5HEJ

Silver Medal at 8. N5FAZ-R

Bronze Medal at 7 K5RIC-L

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## APRS Report

*December 2020 from Scott KI5ANQ*

The new antenna, feedline, and radio installed. Radio is Kenwood TMD710. Receiving 4 messages per minute out to about 170 miles. Set up as digipeater. Can't send data to the station computer while EchoLink is running, so will set up APRS when EchoLink moves back to the Motorola radio.

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## Web Site Report

*December 2020 from Scott KI5ANQ*

The web site maintains monthly reports for the approved meeting minutes, 2m net reports, and EchoLink reports. The BBEN reports are done weekly.

The Tom Guis Estate pages were taken down. Repeater information was added to the main page as work was done.

Next work is to revamp the EchoLink page, archive the BBEN reports, and more information on the About Us page.

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## ARRL News

*FCC \$35 Amateur License Fee Coming*

The FCC has already decided to assess a \$35 fee for most amateur radio license transactions.

*Email Address Required Starting June 29, 2021*

Effective June 29, 2021, amateur radio licensees and candidates must provide the FCC with an email address on all applications. If no email address is included, the FCC may dismiss the application as "defective."

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## From the Editor

The start of a new year begins the cycle of club operations. New assignments begin for club members. The spring events start their planning. The Nets start a new year of reports and controller schedules.

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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

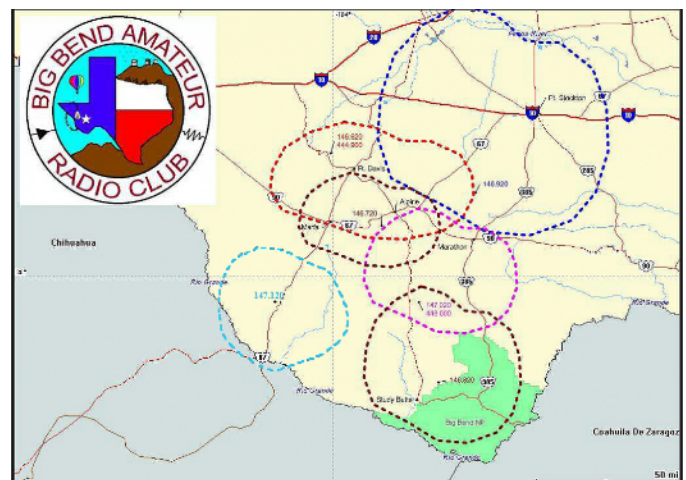
146.920-.....Located on the Glass Mountains, covers US 67 north, Alpine, Fort Stockton, I10 from picnic area 20 miles east of town to US 67 exit west of town, Odessa

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.



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## EchoLink Station K5FD-R Alpine

Access the 2m repeater system through the club's EchoLink station. Get the EchoLink application on your smartphone or Windows station computer. [echolink.org](http://echolink.org)

## Club Officers

President .....Stephen Cook.....KE5WCP  
Vice-president.....Billy Roberts.....W5NPR  
Secretary.....Scott McClanahan .....KI5ANQ  
Treasurer.....Angie Otoupol .....N5MVV

## 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](http://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.

Editor .....Scott McClanahan .....KI5ANQ  
.....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 Ward .....WA5ROE  
.....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 Ayer .....KA1AAJ (SK)  
2m Net Manager.....Chuck Dobbins ...KA5PVB

## From the Editor...

The new year has some new challenges. One is the introduction of licensing fees by the FCC late this spring. Another is the new email requirement from the FCC June 29th. The COVID disease is still rampant, shutting down in-person monthly meetings and all races and events. 2020 marches on.

One of the challenges for the club is going to be income. Races usually result in a donation to the club. In-person meetings included an auction once a year, with sales going to the club.

Dues are another source of club income. January is dues month. This January, there is a great need for dues income as it may be the only club income this year.

Another source of income is exam sessions. Members can help the club in many ways by pursuing license upgrades and finding technician candidates. The time is now as the new FCC license fee looms. Make February your upgrade month.

Scott KI5ANQ