



# Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club K5FD

September 2021

Alpine, Texas

**September 14 BBARC Monthly Meeting  
American Legion Post Alpine  
7:30 pm (doors open 7:00)**

### CycleFest September 18 & 19

The first race in 2 years happens the weekend of the 18th. CycleFest is a Midland bicycle club fun ride around the Davis Mountains loop (highways 17, 166, 118) and based out of the Prude Ranch. Details and sign up are on the BBARC web site. The 18th meets at 7am and needs operators for 10 stations. Two operators at each station are even better. The event lasts all day. The 19th is a hill climb from the ranch to the observatory and back and only needs a few volunteers.

### Hobby Eberly Telescope Tour

*by Scott K15ANQ*

Jim KD5KBU led a tour for BBARC members and friends on an August summer evening. Waiting for a calibration procedure to complete in the dome, Jim gave a lecture in the parking lot about the history and cost of the telescope. The prime objective was to construct the scope with the most cost affective design. The strategic decision was a fixed elevation of 55 degrees. The azimuth rotation is a full 360 degrees. Another strategic decision is the scheduling method. Scheduling is dynamic, and most projects get their piece of the sky scanned in segments over many months or years.



The scope is to look at, not look into. By that, the symmetry of the instrument is a work of art, and there is no eyepiece or image to see. HET is a spectroscope, measuring light wavelengths at very high resolution.

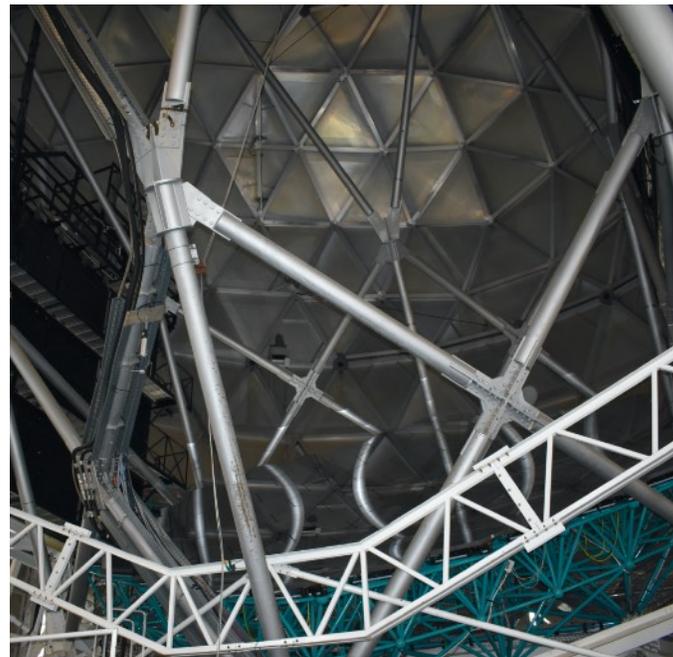
Entering the dome directly from the mountain top scenery is a stark change from Earthly beauty to the interior of a space station. The subdued light, geometric structure of the scope, the geodesic dome, and the instrumentation, wiring, and conduits are all that fills the eyes. A mock airlock would complete the feeling of being in Skylab. But there are mice running around. You're still in West Texas.

Jim resumes the lecture with the massive instrument behind him. The 11-meter main mirror projects to 78 cells. Each cell

sends the raw light through fiber optic cables to sensors that digitize an extremely high resolution data set of that one cell. The data goes to disk and over time, all of the observation data is sent to the project team. Running the telescope only requires an operator and the lead astronomer. The latter does the scheduling and target determination.

The next area we visit is the operations center. Other instruments on site determine weather and visibility and other observations to help the lead astronomer determine the night's activity. One feature of the operations room is the champagne bottle rack. Major milestones and achievements are celebrated with a bottle of champagne, and the empty bottles are the trophy case. One more bottle may be there now. The 78 sensors were replaced one by one in a major upgrade (costing more than the original observatory), and the 78th was completed the week after the tour.

Back outside, the sun is still above the horizon and we linger to talk and watch the sunset. What felt like an hour and a half in space, we are certainly back on the Good Earth.



Location of the meeting is the American Legion Hall in Alpine. The WTNB lobby closed a few days before due to COVID. The meeting was switched to the repeaters. The day before the meeting, the ALH was secured by Rusty KB5R. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Stephen KE5WCP.

The minutes of the July 13, 2021 meeting were read and amended with a call sign error and accepted.

There was no treasurer's report.

The HET tour by KD5KBU is August 24 at 6:30pm. Directions to the parking area were given.

An email from Doug N5HYD brought up a decision on the phone patch at Elephant Mountain. Fiber is replacing the twisted pair phone line, so a box replaces the old phone equipment. The phone equipment is likely to use DC power, so a motion was made to handcraft an uninterruptible power supply. The motion passed.

Cycle Fest September 18 and 19 was discussed. The 18th is the 75 mile loop manning five stations with food and water and a ham operator. Operators meet at 7:00am at Mad Jacks parking lot on the SE edge of Fort Davis. The course lacks cell phone coverage. Jim KD5KBU will be net control and has EMS radios. The event creates income for the club. The 19th is a morning run from the Prude Ranch (headquarters for the event) up to the observatory and back.

More discussion on the Elephant Mtn phone by Bob WA5ROE defines the purpose of the phone line is only for auto-patch. He described the procedures for auto-patch, which are complicated. Auto-patch only works with local telephone numbers. Make sure the person on the other end knows they are transmitting on the radio and that operation is simplex.

There was some discussion on Field Day for using the N1MM logger next year.

Lora W5JUW offered Richard's call sign W5DWI will be available after 2 years and requires permission.

Chuck KA5PVB made a motion to move the BBARC monthly meeting to the American Legion Hall in Alpine. Rusty KB5R

## BBARC Minutes of Meeting

*August 10, 2021*

The meeting was attended by 17 members and guests.

K4AAA.....Ron .....Fort Davis  
 K7VEN.....Art .....Fort Davis  
 KA5PVB.....Chuck.....Alpine  
 KB5R.....Rusty.....Alpine  
 KE5KNQ.....Rob .....Alpine  
 KE5WCP.....Stephen.....Fort Davis  
 KG5ZHT.....Lonny.....Van Horn  
 KG5ZIC.....Pamela.....Fort Davis  
 KI5ANQ.....Scott.....Terlingua  
 KI5EXF.....Sharon.....Alpine  
 KI5OJV.....John.....Marfa  
 KI5OQB.....Brad.....Terlingua  
 KI5RAP.....Wes.....Fort Davis  
 N5CET.....Charlie.....Alpine  
 W5JUW.....Lora.....Alpine  
 W5NPR.....Billy.....Alpine  
 WA5ROE.....Bob.....Alpine

will find out the permanent availability of the ALH for BBARC meetings. The motion for Rusty to pursue the AHL passed.

Presentations at meetings can use a projector owned by the club.

Wes KI5RAP asked about dues, which are \$36 each year paid in January. Joining late in the year is not prorated.

There was some discussion about the Nagoya antenna for Field Day requiring repairs.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott McClanahan KI5ANQ, BBARC Secretary

## 2 Meter Net Report

*August 2021 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 becoming a net controller, 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 2m net roster are both posted on the club website for you to download and use as a NCS!

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

| Date      | Check Ins | Net Station | Net Ctlr |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|----------|
| August 4  | 19        | KG5LMG      | Marvin   |
| August 11 | 24        | KI5EXF      | Sharon   |
| August 18 | 19        | KF5KMA      | Dan      |
| August 25 | 23        | KA5PVB      | Chuck    |

Monthly total of 85 check-ins.

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. 1 time

KI5RIC – Ric from Ruidoso, NM. 1 time

KG5ZHT - Lonny from Van Horn, TX. 3 times

KD5KC - Mike from El Paso, TX. 3 times

W5MOX - Jerry from Alpine 1 time

W5RHN and K5FRN - Bob and Fran from Crystal Falls, MI. (summer home) 2 times.

KB0VLR - Chris from Red Wing, MN. 1 time

AI4BA - David in El Paso. 1 time

KI5OQB - Brad in Terlingua. 1 time

I want to specifically thank our six (6) 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, W5RHN - Bob, KI5ANQ - Scott and KI5EXF - Sharon (substitute, and "possible" future NCS). When you see them, thank them for all their efforts for the 2 meter net.

73,

Chuck Dobbins - KA5PVB

2 meter Net Manager

## Big Bend Emergency Net Report

*August 2021 from Bob WA5ROE*

| Date      | Net Station | Check Ins | Length (min) | Remarks   |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|--------------|---|
| August 1  | WA5ROE      | 41        | 34           |   |
| August 8  | WA5ROE      | 47        | 34           |   |
| August 15 | WA5ROE      | 41        | 45           | thunderstorms to the east made conditions rough |
| August 22 | W5NPR       | 48        | 40           |   |
| August 29 | WA5ROE      | 47        | 48           |   |

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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## BBARC News

### *Our New Home*

The big news this month for the club is our new home, the American Legion Hall in Alpine. COVID and the bank lobby were open and closed too much. The bank is based in Midland and follows the guidelines for that city. The repeater system is not the same as in person and lacks presentations. When the bank shut down a few days before the August meeting, Charlie N5CET asked about the exam venue. Rusty KB5R and his VEC team do exams at the ALH, Rusty is on the board of directors, and we got the hall for our meeting in August. The final step was having the ALH board accept a regular monthly meeting on the calendar, which happened September 8th. A formal agreement is likely future club business.

### *Call Sign Changes*

OJV are not the easiest three letters to use in operating, as John KI5OJV discovered. John went with his initials, JCM, so he is now KA5JMC. There is another OJV in the club, Nancy KG5OJV. Wes KI5RAP is our newest member and tested with Rusty KB5R's VEC team in July. Wes is now K5WFD.

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## Web Site Report

### *August 2021 from Scott KI5ANQ*

The Member page changed drastically this month. Software that creates the tables was rewritten from scratch. The participation, status, and totals tables became just a generic totals table. Each row has a description, count, percentage, and list of call signs. A software object was created to manage many lists of members, such as dues, meeting attendance, and event participation. The ARRL membership and spouse considerations still needs to be added to the new software. The Newsletter page now uses tables for each year of back issues. A similar table for meeting minutes will soon be part of the Member page.

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## From the Editor

The club web site is central to operating a radio club. The BBARC use to publish the newsletter, including printing and mailing. The costs of printing at home and postage ended that. Desktop publishing came of age with PDF document formats. Better yet, PDF files can be sent or downloaded and viewed on a screen. Email replaced the postal service for the newsletter. The web page became the online reference and document retrieval. With the FCC adopting email, clubs can now operate with email.

The online computer use by society is a blessing for radio clubs. Now anyone, member or visitor, can find out about the club and download PDF files, such as the newsletter and membership forms. The web site starts with marketing intentions, but quickly evolves to a reference source.

Most web site visitors will be hams, checking out the club, getting repeater information, checking the net schedule and meetings. They also download the newsletter and may make a donation using the PayPal buttons on the web site. Other visitors will be people interested in a license, testing, or joining the club. The exam session announcements are

**continued next page**

September 2021 The BARK

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## BBRC Repeater System

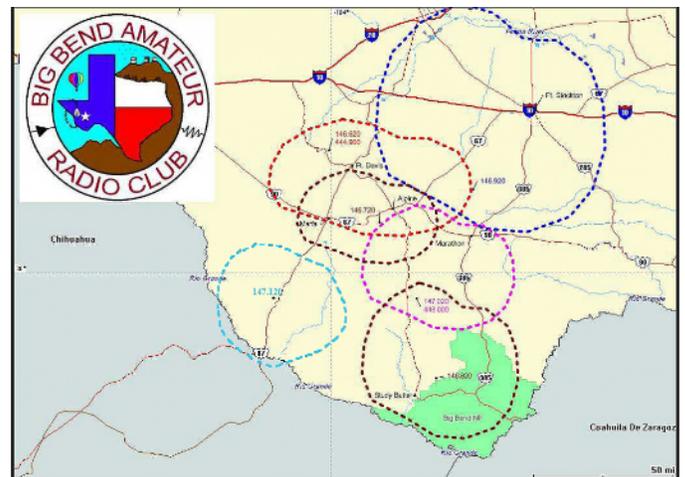
The BBARC operates six 2m repeaters, all connected via the hub 147.020. Contact with one repeater transmits from all repeaters. The frequencies are 100 kHz apart on the 2's: 146.62, .72, .82, .92, 147.02, and .12.

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 the BBARC mailing address below.

## Club Mailing and Email Address

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club

1402 N. 5th St.

Alpine, Texas 79830-2512

K5FD@ARRL.NET

[www.bigbendarc.com](http://www.bigbendarc.com)

The BBARC web site contains a Member exclusive area, news, events, regular reports, Big Bend Emergency Network reports, 2m Net reports, and newsletter archive.

**Member** is password protected with exclusive member information.

**Field Day** features upcoming Field Day preparations or pictures and reports of the past Field Day.

**Newsletters** contains PDF files of The Bark newsletter.

**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 and friends. To be added to the distribution list, submit content, make comments, or add events, send an email to the editor.

Editor .....Scott McClanahan .....KI5ANQ  
contact.....KI5ANQ@ARRL.NET

## 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  
contact.....K5FD@ARRL.NET.

## 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 continued...

important, and mailed to all club members and a list of interested potential members. Nearly all who test in Alpine join the club.

The home page is how most see the web site initially. It has to accommodate all web site users and has the obvious links for visiting hams and people interested in getting a license. The home page has current information for members, such as immediate events, monthly meeting, and new events.

Navigation is the key to the home page. For our web development, WordPress, navigation is through the main menu. The key areas are the nets, repeaters, about the club, and members. The first three are just reference information. The nets will have rosters, reports, and net control schedules.

The most important area of the club web site is the Member page. This is where details of the club, member, and reference information live. Access requires a password to protect member contact information and club financial details. The contents begin with member news, such as license upgrade and call sign changes. Next are sign up opportunities. The first table is the contact information of each member, including QTH and license level. The second table contains totals. Each row contains a description, count, percentage, and list of call signs. The first row is all members. After that are statistics (break down by license class, for example), roll sheets for meetings, events, and Field Day. Other rows are status, such as dues payment, and no email address. ARRL membership and verification are also shown.

The last part of the Member page is reference information. A table with the past year's meeting minutes, a table with other radio club web sites and ARRL region, and a table of surrounding repeater systems are part of growing reference information. Finally, there are ideas about getting involved in the club.