

President
Chuck Dobbins, KA5PVB
Vice President
Allen Moore, N5NYM



Secretary
Bill Roberts, W5NPR
Treasurer
Angie Otoupal, N5MVV

Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, K5FD

January, 2016

Alpine, Texas

OFFICERS ELECTED

The following were elected at the December meeting to serve as BBARC officers for 2016:

President -- Chuck Dobbins, KA5PVB
Vice President -- Allen Moore, N5NYM
Secretary -- Bill Roberts, W5NPR
Treasurer -- Angie Otoupal, N5MVV

W5NPR and N5MVV are incumbents in their respective positions, while KA5PVB has moved up from Vice President. This is N5NYM's first time to be one of our officers.

Thanks to each of these individuals for their willingness to serve our club.

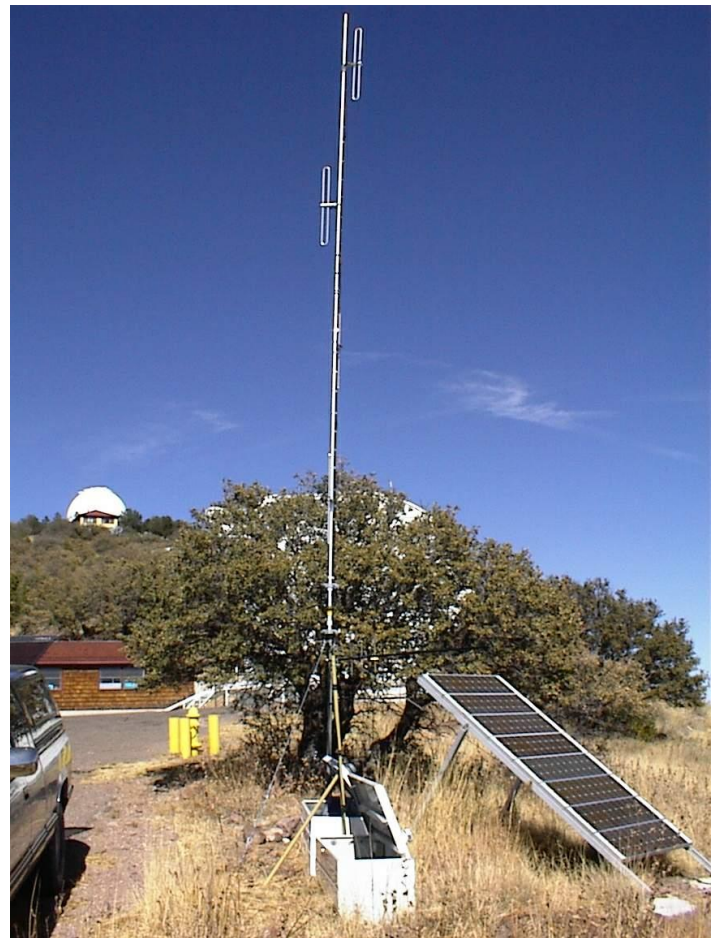
2015 DUES NOW DUE!

There was general agreement at the beginning meetings of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club in 1974 that the purpose of the club would be to serve as a general club to serve the needs of amateurs and the communities in the Big Bend area. Our dues money would go primarily to establish a single 2-meter repeater to serve the Alpine area. That was going to be expensive – more money than any one of us could afford to finance on our own. So we set the dues at \$3 per month, payable yearly, totaling \$36.



146.82 Christmas Mountain Repeater (covers Big Bend National Park and surrounding area)

Over the ensuing 42 years the club has established not one, but six repeaters spread across the Big Bend region. This is no small area – our repeaters roughly cover an area of 15,000 square miles. This is an area larger than the area of nine states (in order by size: Maryland, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Hawaii, Connecticut, Delaware, and Rhode Island)! The photos show two of our six repeaters. It is a fairly major operation just to reach most of our repeater sites.



146.62 McDonald Observatory (Ft. Davis) Repeater

And the demands on our financial resources are greater than just the repeater system: we have recurring obligations for a storage unit, insurance (liability for the club itself and insurance for the emergency communication van), maintenance and operational expenses for the van, telephone charges for the reverse patch, etc.

We never imagined most of these expenses 42 years ago when the dues were established. Perhaps the most amazing thing is the dues are still the same amount -- \$36 per year. So remember to bring your check (or cash) for \$36 to the next meeting and give it to Angie, N5MVB, or drop it off at True Value Hardware in Alpine to Bob, WA5ROE.

LICENSE CLASSES

Technician classes:

Alpine

The BBARC will be conducting a Technician Class beginning Wednesday, January 6 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Turner Range Animal Science Center at Sul Ross, Room 130. The class will be held on five successive Wednesdays: January 6, January 13, January 20, January 27, and February 3.

Davis Mountain Resort

A second class will be held at the Community Center in the Davis Mountain Resort on the following Saturdays: January 16, January 23 and January 30. Classes will meet from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with a break for lunch from 12 to 12:30 p.m. On January 30 class will meet from 10 to 11 a.m., with the exam beginning at 11 a.m.

The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, 3rd edition, 2014, is required and will be available for purchase at a discount price (\$25). The class will cover all elements of the Technician License and should prepare students to successfully pass the Technician exam, which will be given at the end of the course.

General Classes:

South Brewster County

An upgrade class to the General license is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, February 6 and 13 at the Family Crisis Center in Terlingua. Times will be from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with lunch from 12 to 12:30. The exam would be given on Wednesday Feb. 17 at 5 p.m.

The ARRL General Class License Manual, 8th edition, 2015, is required and will be available for purchase at a discount price (\$25). The class will cover all elements of the General License and should prepare students to successfully pass the General exam, which will be given at the end of the course. Students must either hold a current Technician License or successfully complete the Technician exam to be eligible to sit for the General license examination.

For additional information contact Dave Cockrum at 837-3711 or via email at n5do@sbcglobal.net.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

Following the regular business the program will be the always popular Silent Auction. In addition to being fun, this event raises funds for the club. We have missed this activity the past two years – in 2013 we had the 40th anniversary celebration of the BBARC and in 2015 we had a guest presenter.

To refresh your memory of the silent auction: members donate items to be placed for bids in the silent auction. Ham radio, computer and other electronic-related items are welcome. There will also be some surplus equipment items from the BBARC storage locker. All proceeds go to the BBARC bank account.

Have nothing to donate for the auction? Please plan to attend anyway – we need people to bid (and hopefully buy) our donated items.

BIG BEND ULTRA RUN: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Big Bend Ultra Run will be held on Sunday, January 17, 2016. This will be the second year the event will be held at Big Bend Ranch State Park.

Radio operators are especially needed. All volunteers will need to plan to get to their assigned position on Saturday, January 16. If you can assist, please make contact with Charles Land by email: charlesdland@gmail.com.

The Big Bend Ultra Run is made up of two races: the Buena Suerte 50 Mile and the Quicksilver 30K. For additional information check the Big Bend Ultra Run website, especially these two sections.

<http://www.bigbend50.com/radio-operators/>

<http://www.bigbend50.com/volunteering/>

MURPHY'S LAW VARIATIONS

Every ham has learned Murphy's Law the hard way: "If it can go wrong, it will." Here are some additional modifications of this law:

"The other line always moves faster."

"When a broken appliance is demonstrated for the repairman, it will work perfectly." Or, in the words of Icom/Kenwood/Yaesu: "We can't duplicate the problem."

"If more than one person is responsible for a miscalculation, no one is responsible."

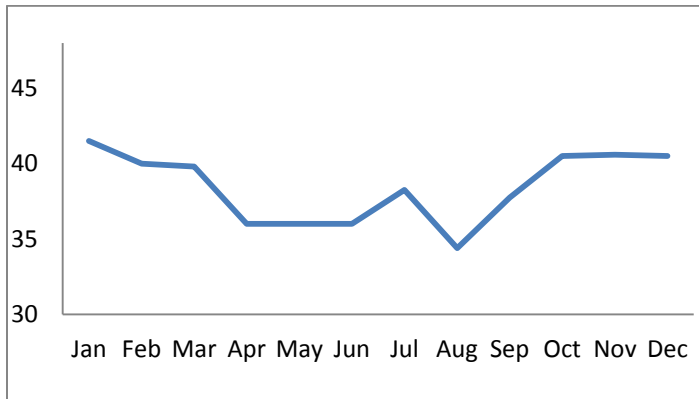
"In case of doubt, make it sound convincing."

BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT

From WA5ROE

Date	Check-ins	Length	Remarks
Dec. 6	43	27 min	
Dec. 13	42	29 min	
Dec. 20	41	29 min	
Dec. 27	36	31 min	

A summary of the net reports for 2015 shows an average of 38.3 check-ins with an average length of 27.3 minutes. This graph shows the average check-ins by month for 2015.



Remember – the BBEN meets **every** Sunday on 3922 KHz at 8:30 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.

TENTATIVE DATE PICKED FOR ANNUAL BANQUET

Pending approval at the next BBARC meeting, put the date of Friday, February 5, on your calendar for the annual BBARC Banquet.

THE BARK Newsletter of the BBARC

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club
1402 N. 5th St.
Alpine, Texas 79830

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[wa5roe at juno.com](mailto:wa5roe@juno.com)

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[n5do at sbcglobal.net](mailto:n5do@sbcglobal.net)

BIG BEND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB <http://www.bigbendarc.com>

Meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at the West Texas National Bank Building in Alpine, 7:30 P.M. CST/CDT.

ARRL Affiliated Club

MEMBERSHIP AND NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

Annual membership is Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 each year. Dues are \$36.00 per year for individual or individual & spouse.

Membership allows you to participate in all club activities and vote at the monthly meetings.

Newsletters are available by e-mail for members, subscribers, and interested recipients. Send your e-mail address to [n5do at sbcglobal.net](mailto:n5do@sbcglobal.net) to be put on the list.

ABOUT THE BBARC

Founded December 17, 1974

ARRL affiliate since 1986

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

Big Bend Emergency Net, 3.922 MHz

Founded September 18, 1977

Meets every Sunday morning at 8:30 A.M. CST/CDT

Controlled net format. Welcomes new participants and visitors.

Established by Bob Ward, WA5ROE.

Net Manager, Bob Ward, WA5ROE, [wa5roe at juno.com](mailto:wa5roe@juno.com)

Big Bend 2-meter Net

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)

Net Manager, Chuck Dobbins, KA5PVB, [charles.dobbins52 at yahoo.com](mailto:charles.dobbins52@yahoo.com)

BBARC REPEATER SYSTEM

All standard offsets. All repeaters require 146.2 Hz PL tone encoded on your transmit signal. All repeaters are linked.

147.120+	Shafter, Cibolo Creek
147.020+	Elephant Mt. south of Alpine. System hub
146.620-	Ft. Davis located at McDonald Observatory
146.720-	Alpine, Pearce Mountain
146.820-	Terlingua, Study Butte
146.920-	Glass Mountains, Alpine / Ft. Stockton
145.230-	Emergency Repeater

BBARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 6, 2016, Wednesday, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

January 13, 2016, Wednesday, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

January 20, 2016, Wednesday, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

January 27, 2016, Wednesday, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

February 3, 2016, Wednesday, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS, Room 130, Turner Range
Animal Science Center, Sul Ross State University

January 12, 2016, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank Building
Program: Silent Auction

January 16 - 17, 2016

Big Bend Ultra Run 50K
Big Bend Ranch State Park

January 16, 2016, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

January 23, 2016, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

January 30, 2016, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS, Community Center
Davis Mountain Resort

January 30, 2016, Saturday, 11:00 a.m.

VOLUNTEER EXAMINATION SESSION
Community Center
Davis Mountain Resort

February 3, 2016, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEER EXAMINATION SESSION, Room 130
Turner Range Animal Science Center
Sul Ross State University

February 5, 2016, Friday, 6:30 p.m. (Tentative Date)

BBARC Annual Banquet

February 9, 2016, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank Building
Program "TBA"

February 6, 2016, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

February 13, 2016, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

GENERAL LICENSE CLASS, Family Crisis Center,
Terlingua

February 17, 2016, Wednesday, 5:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEER EXAMINATION SESSION
Family Crisis Center
Terlingua