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Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, K5FD

May / June, 2016

Alpine, Texas

FIELD DAY NEARS!

The annual highlight of the amateur radio year is approaching. Field Day 2016 will be held again at the Double Diamond Pavilion about 5 miles south of Alpine on State Highway 118. This year Field Day operations will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 25 and end at 1 p.m. on Sunday, June 26.

We begin setting up the station before the start of the operating period. The ARRL announced a new rule last year which we have taken advantage of:

No class A or B station may begin its set-up earlier than 0000 UTC on the Friday (Thursday afternoon or evening local time) preceding the Field Day period. Cumulative set-up time shall not exceed a total of 24 hours.

So we can start with the antenna work on Thursday evening at 7 p.m. – a much cooler time of day. And we could work on Friday morning, Friday evening, and Saturday morning, all during cooler times, as long as the total amount of time erecting antennas and setting up stations does not total more than 24 hours. So plan on showing up Thursday evening, June 26, at 7 p.m. to start the process!

Chief cook Bob Ward, WA5ROE, will serve hot dogs for everyone who is there Thursday evening to help us get started. Meals are always a high point of Field Day. We will have the same meal charges as last year (and for the past eight years): \$30, plus one twelve pack of soft drinks or water, per person for the weekend. Any 807s are your own responsibility. The \$30 will pay for 6 meals: Friday evening, Saturday breakfast, lunch, and supper, and Sunday breakfast and lunch. There is a special rate for families: \$45 for a family.

For individuals who would like to eat a meal with us but not spend the entire weekend, there is a special rate of \$10. The Friday evening meal will be steaks, baked potatoes, salads, and other assorted goodies. The meal Saturday evening will be brisket, cabrito, and chicken along with beans, salad, and additional delicacies.

For newcomers, Field Day is the perfect way to get your feet wet by immersing yourself into ham radio. We will have four stations operating: an SSB station, a CW station, a VHF (6 meter) station, and a GOTA station. The GOTA station (Get On The Air) is designed for newly licensed hams, unlicensed individuals, and old-timers who have not been on the air for some time.

The GOTA station will be operating on the hf bands, using mostly SSB. A GOTA mentor will be present to assist you in using the radio, making contacts, and logging contacts.

We will have at least two CW operators present: Dave, N5DO and Mike, WA5POK (from Tennessee, by way of Texas). We are always looking for additional CW operators – we hope to help Allen, N5NYM, make the plunge into the CW melee during FD.



Aerial view of the Field Day site. Notice the white Double Diamonds at the bottom – your sign to turn into the Pavilion.



Robin, KK5ROB, Polly, KF5KMB, and mentor Rusty, KB5R at the GOTA station last year.

One question that always comes up regarding Field Day: is it a contest? There are two answers to this. One side says, “No. It’s an emergency preparedness exercise to allow us to test our equipment and operating skills using emergency power and antennas at stations we set up in a temporary location.”

The other side to this question says, "They keep score don't they? Of course it's a contest!"

As usual with controversial topics, there is truth to both sides. We do get to use our emergency communication van and crank-up tower, put together and raise our antennas, and operate. We always find things that don't work, things that have disappeared since we used them last year, and we learn how we can improve on our equipment, set-up, and operating skills. When a disaster does strike we are better prepared to operate.

But we do try to do as well as we can, as measured by the score. Our goal is to finish in the top 10% each year. The following table shows our recent results:

Year	Score	QSOs	Rank / Total Entrants
2015	10,615	2,955	7/391
2014	9,560	2,979	6/392
2013	6,768	1,936	28/399
2012	3,460	1,188	25/135
2011	8,928	2,613	19/387
2010	7,716	2,237	19/424
2009	7,414	1,992	30/502
2008	8,308	2,303	18/487
2007	10,534	2,823	7/475
2006	7,340	2,053	11/277

We met our goal of finishing in the top 10 percent each year except in 2012. That was also the only year in which we operated in Class 1A (one transmitter, emergency power). Usually we operate in Class 2A (two transmitters, emergency power). In Class 2A and higher we also can have a GOTA station and a VHF station in addition to the two main stations.

If you can't make it to our Field Day, we will be using our club call sign, K5FD. (Great Field Day callsign!) Give us a call.

How will we finish in 2016?

BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT From WA5ROE

Date	Check-ins	Length	Remarks
Apr. 3	45	25 min	
Apr. 10	45	25 min	
Apr. 17	36	35 min	Add: N5NYM, Allen, Alpine KC5ETV, Les, Midland
Apr. 24	43	35 min	

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.

BIG BEND 2 METER NET REPORT From KA5PVB

The Big Bend 2 meter net meets every Wednesday evening at 8:00 p.m. Central Time on the Big Bend 2 meter repeater network. These Wednesday evening nets are good training grounds for possible emergency situations. They also provide a "safe" and easy way for new amateurs to get used to talking on the radio.

The net control station calls for check-ins from each of the BBARC repeaters. Listen to make sure the frequency is clear, then sign in by announcing your call sign. After everyone checks-in the net control calls on each station to make any comments they wish.

Date	Check-ins	Net Control
Apr. 6	19	KF5KMA
Apr. 13	15	KB5R
Apr. 20	17	KA5PVB
Apr. 27	18	W5NPR

Net control stations for May: May 4, N5BBJ; May 11, W5RHN; May 18, KF5KMA; May 25, KB5R.

Note from KA5PVB: Our thanks to all who check-in to the net and even if you DO NOT want to participate in the round-table discussion after the roll call of repeaters, please take the time to make contact and let us know you're out there by being an "in and out check-in." It will only take you one call to us to get you on the list for the evening, with no further contact to you from us!

Thanks again everyone for your participation.

UPGRADE NEWS

Congratulations to Marvin Voiers, KG5LMG, for successfully upgrading to General at an April VE session in Alpine.

With no classes currently scheduled, remember that the BBARC Volunteer Examiners are available to conduct an examination session whenever you are ready. Contact Rusty Herman at 837-0002 or via email at rustyh92n AT hotmail.com

NEXT MEETINGS: TUESDAY, MAY 10 AND TUESDAY, JUNE 14

The next meeting will return to the normal location for our meetings: the meeting room at the West Texas National Bank, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

After the business portion of the meeting, the program will be presented by Jonathan Baize, AD5OJ. Jonathan is one of those

increasingly rare birds: a young ham. Amateur Radio helped to fund part of the cost of his college degree as he was the recipient of the Northern California DX Foundation Scholarship in 2007 and 2008. In 2009 he received another scholarship through the ARRL Foundation, the Richard W. Bendickson Memorial Scholarship. Jonathon received his degree from Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC.

Jonathan has spent most of his life in ranching in the Ft. Davis area. His program will be on an electronic device he designed and built which intersects his interests in electronics and ranching, a remote tank monitoring system.



Jonathan Baize, AD5OJ

The June meeting will be on June 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the West Texas National Bank meeting room. The program will be a discussion of the plans for Field Day.

Field Day tee shirts, pins, and hats have been ordered and should be here by the June meeting.

DOUBLE ISSUE

The Editor will be operating from ZF1A at the end of May and will not be able to complete a newsletter, so this issue will suffice for both May and June. Look for N5DO and AC6T operating multi-single, low power from ZF1A during the CQ WPX CW contest on May 28 and 29.

Our goal will be to set a new North American record. I have been fortunate the past two years to be on teams from ZF1A that set the multi-two and multi-single high power North American records in this contest.

The ZF1A station has a tremendous antenna farm anchored by a large Moseley LPDA at 100 feet which covers 40 – 10M. Other antennas include a Force 12 2-element 80M antenna at 80 feet, a Force 12 tribander and a Wilson tribander both at 60 feet.

N5DO will use the call ZF2DO outside of the contest.

NEW SOLAR PANEL TECHNOLOGY

A new technology has been released – solar panels that can be rolled up like a carpet, then unrolled when you are ready to use it. These panels are being marketed to large organizations like NATO and the U.S. military. Apparently if you have to ask what they cost you can't afford one.



You can see a video of these solar panels being deployed at this url:

<https://www.facebook.com/DavidAvocadoWolfe/videos/vb.102515706511/10153454413356512/?type=2&theater>

THE BARK Newsletter of the BBARC

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

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

Editor: Dave Cockrum, N5DO
[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

May 10, 2016, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank Building
Program: Jonathan Baize, AD5OJ
"Remote Tank Monitoring System"

June 14, 2016, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank Building
Program: Bill Brooks, KE5OG
"Field Day Preparations"

June 25-26, 2016, Sat.-Sun.

FIELD DAY
<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>
