

President
Bob Ward, WA5ROE
Vice President
Rusty Herman, KB5R



Secretary
Bill Roberts, W5NPR
Treasurer
Angie Otoupal, N5MVV

Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, AD5BB

September, 2014

Alpine, Texas

BIG BEND BALLOON BASH

From W5NPR

The annual Balloon Bash over the Labor Day weekend is coming up this weekend. It is scheduled for Saturday through Monday, August 30-31 and September 1. It will be held at the Alpine Municipal Airport, beginning each morning as soon as there is sufficient daylight, and when weather conditions are acceptable for launching the hot air balloons.



For anyone who has not worked the event previously, the BBARC Communication Vehicle will be parked inside the gate next to the Airport Fixed Based Operations Office. After turning into the airport from Highway 118, it is straight ahead perhaps two hundred yards. It will be necessary to have a net control operator and a spotter at the airport to alert net control of each balloon liftoff and its identity. There will also need to be as many operators as possible to track balloons to their landing locations and to advise balloon ground crews as to the best possible access to the landing locations. Some of the balloons will land on private property and gate and road information will need to be given to the ground crews.

If you are providing communication support for the Balloon Bash this weekend, please be at the Alpine Municipal Airport by 6:30 AM on the days you can participate. This is a "hurry up and wait" situation, with the start depending on when balloon liftoff is approved based on wind and other weather conditions. The areas where operators will be asked to cover will depend on wind direction and balloon activity.

For those that can help with the Balloon Glow on Sunday evening, you are asked to arrive at the airport by 6:45 PM. The Sunday night event is when the BBARC will be involved in fund raiser activities, which include donations at the gate and the sale of concessions.

If you haven't done so already, please advise Bob WA5ROE (wa5roe@juno.com) or Bill W5NPR (w5npr@bigbend.net) as to

which days you can be available for the event. Remember, it is a three day event and help is needed all three days.

W1AW/5 IN TEXAS!

As part of the ARRL's Centennial activities W1AW is operating portable from all the states. From September 10 through 16 W1AW will be operating from Texas. Operating "slots" are available to operate W1AW/5 in various parts of the state.

Here in Alpine Bill, KE5OG, and Dave, N5DO, have secured a number of 2-hour slots to operate W1AW/5. There are several unfilled slots which are available to club members or other interested amateurs to operate. Here are the available slots and bands (all times CDT):

Thursday, September 11

11 am – 1 pm, 20 meter SSB

Friday, September 12

11 am – 1 pm, 20 meter SSB

3 pm – 5 pm, 15 meter SSB

Saturday, September 13

9 am – 11 am, 15 meter SSB

Sunday, September 14

1 pm – 3 pm, 15 meter SSB

Monday, September 15

11 am – 1 pm, 15 meter SSB

If you would like to operate W1AW/5 from N5DO's shack, drop him an email at n5do@sbcglobal.net and specify which time you would like to operate. He will be there to get you started and either he or KE5OG will be available to mentor you if needed.

Here is advice from Larry, K5OT, who along with George, K5TR, are heading up this Texas run of W1AW: "Carefully read the [W1AW/5 Operating Guidelines](#). These are well-tested comments originating from Headquarters and from other state groups that have experienced their week of activity. The world will be listening, and we represent not only Texas but also the ARRL and the W1AW legacy. There have been some terrific state efforts since this Centennial QSO Party began on January 1st, including the first Texas week. We want to be one of the best!"

If you can't make any of the time slots listed above, and would like to operate, contact N5DO. There are other time slots available on the master list that we can request. If you are unsure about operating on some bands where there will likely be large pile ups, there are plenty of times available to operate on 10 meters. The difficulty with 10 meters is that you never know if it will be open or not, but it would likely be slower paced than some of the lower bands.

Here are the BBARC members already scheduled to operate:

CW – N5DO

- Thursday, September 11, 5 am – 7 am, 40 meters
- Friday, September 12, 1 pm – 3 pm, 15 meters
- Saturday, September 13, 5 pm – 7 pm, 15 meters
- Saturday, September 13, 7 pm – 9 pm, 20 meters
- Sunday, September 14, 9 am – 11 am, 15 meters
- Sunday, September 14, 3 pm – 5 pm, 15 meters
- Sunday, September 14, 9 pm – 11 pm, 20 meters
- Monday, September 15, 1 pm – 3 pm, 15 meters
- Monday, September 15, 9 pm – 11 pm, 20 meters
- Tuesday, September 16, 3 pm – 5 pm, 15 meters

RTTY – KE5OG (SHACK – KE5OG)

- Wednesday, September 10, 9 am – 11 am, 20 meters
- Wednesday, September 10, 1 pm – 3 pm, 20 meters
- Wednesday, September 10, 9 pm – 11 pm, 40 meters
- Thursday, September 11, 9 am – 11 am, 15 meters
- Thursday, September 11, 3 pm – 5 pm, 20 meters
- Thursday, September 11, 7 pm – 9 pm, 40 meters
- Friday, September 12, 9 am – 11 am, 20 meters
- Friday, September 12, 1 pm – 3 pm, 15 meters
- Saturday, September 13, 9 am – 11 am, 20 meters
- Sunday, September 14, 3 pm – 5 pm, 15 meters
- Sunday, September 14, 9 pm – 11 pm, 40 meters
- Monday, September 15, 11 am – 1 pm, 20 meters
- Monday, September 15, 3 pm – 5 pm, 15 meters
- Monday, September 15, 9 pm – 11 pm, 40 meters
- Tuesday, September 16, 9 am – 11am, 20 meters
- Tuesday, September 16, 1 pm – 3 pm, 15 meters

SSB – (SHACK – N5DO)

- Saturday, September 13, 3 pm – 5 pm, 15 meters, **WA5ROE**
- Tuesday, September 16, 9 am – 11am, 20 meters, **KA5PVB**
- Tuesday, September 16, 11 am – 1 pm, 15 meters, **KA5PVB**

BBARC MEETINGS

The September meeting will be held at the normal location, the West Texas National Bank meeting room in Alpine on Tuesday, September 9, at 7:30 p.m. The program will be presented by Mike, NW5M, on the topic of operating from Honduras as part of a medical outreach program.

The October meeting will be a return visit to the McDonald Observatory for a tour of the Hobby-Eberly Telescope (HET).

The tour will be led by our own Dr. Jim Fowler, KD5KBU, the computer group manager for the HET.

The tour will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the parking lot of the HET. You may drive yourself to the Observatory or meet at the West Texas National Bank in Alpine at 6:30 p.m. to car pool.

The November meeting will be back at the usual location in Alpine. The program will be led by Bill, W5ATO, and will consist of a briefing for the communication coverage for the Big Bend Ultra 50 mile run to be held at Big Bend Ranch State Park in January 2015.

The December meeting will be a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club. Stay tuned for future details of this fun event.

**BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT
From WA5ROE**

Date	Check-ins	Length	Remarks
July 6	36	22 min	Poor conditions
July 13	35	27 min	
July 20	36	23 min	
July 27	36	30 min	N5OKB Silent Key
Aug 3	37	29 min	
Aug 10	39	33 min	
Aug 17	35	26 min	N5RPS new QTH -- Corpus Christi
Aug 24	39	28 min	

Remember – the BBEN meets **every** Sunday on 3922 KHz at 8:30 a.m. Central time (either CST or CDT). Visitors always welcome.

ARRL CENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES

Among the activities in conjunction with the 100th Anniversary of the ARRL is the opportunity to get WAS (Worked All States) by working W1AW portable in each state. W1AW will operate from each state two or more times during 2014.

Here is the schedule for September

September 3 – 9	W1AW/4	Tennessee
September 3 – 9	W1AW/7	Oregon
September 10 – 16	W1AW/0	Colorado
September 10 – 16	W1AW/5	Texas
September 10 – 16	W1AW/1	New Hampshire
September 17 – 23	W1AW/4	North Carolina
September 17 – 23	W1AW/1	Connecticut
September 24 – 30	W1AW/5	New Mexico
September 24 – 30	W1AW/7	Idaho

Want to know what frequency you can find W1AW portable on at any time? Check this webpage:

www.dxscape.com

Click on "Data Base Search" in the upper right and type in W1AW in the Target Callsign box on the next page, then click Search to see a list of recent spots for W1AW.

BATTERY CARE PROCEDURES

Bill, KE5OG, forwards this link to a battery care site which appeared in the ARRL Contest Update, among other locations.

<http://www.batteriesnorthwest.com/batteryschool.cfm?TID=2#ANC2>

This site has a lot of helpful info on keeping those batteries going at our remote sites.,

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, vote at the monthly meetings, and includes a subscription to the club newsletter.

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, [ka5pvb at yahoo.com](mailto:ka5pvb@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, Twin Sisters Peaks
146.820-	Terlingua
146.920-	Glass Mountains, Alpine / Ft. Stockton
145.230-	Emergency Repeater

BBARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**August 30 – September 1, 2014, Saturday – Monday,
6:30 am - ~ 11:00 am each morning**
BIG BEND BALLOON BASH, Alpine Casparis Airport

August 31, 2014, Sunday, 6:30 p.m.
Balloon Fire Concert, Alpine Casparis Airport

September 9, 2014, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank Building
Program: NW5M, "Operating in Honduras as Part of a Medical Outreach Team"

October 14, 2014, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
BBARC MEETING, McDonald Observatory, Fort Davis
Meet at the parking lot of the West Texas National Bank building in Alpine at 6:30 p.m. to carpool
Program: Tour of the Hobby Eberley Telescope and update on the Dark Skies project

November 11, 2014, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank Building
Program: W5ATO, "Communications Operations Plan for the Big Bend Ultra 50 mile run."

December 9, 2014, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. (tentative)
Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club
Details forthcoming