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## Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, AD5BB

July/August, 2014

Alpine, Texas

### FIELD DAY

No one went hungry at the BBARC Field Day this year. Even though the Chief Cook & Bottle Washer (WA5ROE) was hobbling around with one new knee, he was able to turn out wonderful meals assisted by long time Field Day participant Ike Roberts.

Friday night was chicken, sausage, beans, enchilada casserole (from W5NPR's XYL), pasta salad, cole slaw, pico de gallo, bread and a variety of desserts, led by the world famous Jack Daniels Cake from the kitchen of Barbie Thomas, XYL of N5JOE. Saturday night the menu included brisket, cabrito, potato salad, beans, cole slaw, macaroni salad, pico de gallo, and more desserts.

Of course the highlight of Field Day is the breakfasts, which consist of wonderful burritos (know among the aficionados as *Huevos con Caca*). While the recipe is a secret, it appears to have lots of eggs, sausage, and more pico de gallo (jalapenos, tomatoes, onions, etc). One thing you will not find in a meal that WA5ROE has anything to do with is cilantro! Breakfast also includes a generous sampling of sweetbreads cooked cowboy style by Ike Roberts.

Coffee drinkers swear by the camp coffee which is always available. There was also a large supply of cold drinks: bottled water, soft drinks, and for the select few (in the old days, the select many), 807s.

In the middle of this gastronomic feast we managed to put together four stations: an SSB station and a CW/SSB station, both using the call K5FD, a GOTA (Get On the Air) station using the BBARC club call, AD5BB, and a "free" extra station that monitored six meters around the clock.

We also managed to make some QSOs:

CW	1,064
SSB	1,813
(includes VHF and GOTA)	
Digital	102
Total	2,979

The QSO points totaled 8,290 and the claimed bonus points were 1,270 or a final score of 9,560. While it is dangerous to compare current scores with previous scores, a score of 9,560 would have placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the 2A category last year. KE5OG has records

going back to 2001 on our Field Day scores and only one year tops this year's score. In 2007 we had a claimed score of 10,534.

Rumor has it that the race for the Section Manager's plaque for the highest score in Field Day in the West Texas Section will be a real horse race this year. The Midland ARC has won this award for the past several years but this year are also in the 2A category.

A good group was in attendance at this year's Field Day. Several people made the trip from south Brewster County and Ft. Davis, but the distance travel award went to AE5B and K5RLA who came from the Abilene area. Spotted at this year's Field Day were: AE5B, K5AHI, K5FD, K5RLA, KA5PVB, KB5R, KB7ZWY, KD5KBU, KE5IYO, KE5KNQ, KE5OG, KF5KMB, KF5RDN, KG5BMK, KG5CGR, KM5V, KM5VM, N5DO, N5HYD, NW5M, W5ATO, W5DWI, W5JUW, W5NPR, WB5JBG, and WA5ROE.

### NEW MEXICO STATE INSECT ATTACKS N5DO AT FIELD DAY!

This ferocious looking insect below is known as a Tarantula Hawk. According to Wikipedia:

The [U.S. state of New Mexico](#) chose the tarantula hawk in 1989 to become its official [state insect](#).



Saturday night at Field Day N5DO was innocently taking a break, dressed in standard field day attire (shorts and tee shirt), when he crossed his legs and felt a sharp, burning sensation in both his right ankle and his left knee where his ankle was laying on top of his knee. Glancing downward, he spotted the

distinctive black body and red wings of the Tarantula Hawk and knocked the ferocious beast to the ground.

The burning sensation continued and I (N5DO) felt I should go down to the main pavilion to find one of our medics. Before I could start the trek down the hill, however, the pain began to subside.

I did tell several people about this unwarranted attack, looking for some sympathy, and found very little sympathy (hams can be a cruel bunch). After returning home on Sunday evening I looked up this dreaded insect on the Internet (which doesn't lie, does it?). On Wikipedia I found this:

*A tarantula hawk is a [spider wasp](#) which hunts [tarantulas](#) as food for its [larvae](#). The tarantula hawk is relatively docile and rarely stings without provocation. However, the sting is among the most painful of any insect, though the intense pain only lasts about three minutes.<sup>[1]</sup> Commenting on his own experience, [Justin O. Schmidt](#), [entomologist](#) and creator of the [Schmidt Sting Pain Index](#), described the pain as "...immediate, excruciating pain that simply shuts down one's ability to do anything, except, perhaps, scream. Mental discipline simply does not work in these situations."<sup>[2]</sup> In terms of scale, the wasp's sting is rated near the top of the Schmidt index, second only to that of the [bullet ant](#), and is described by Schmidt as "blinding, fierce [and] shockingly electric".*

Apparently being stung by one of these insects allows you to make up your own scale of pain. On my *N5DO Pain Index* this pain would not rank number 2. The fact that the pain only lasts a short time would alone mitigate against a high ranking. In my view the pain doesn't come close to the pain caused by the passing of a kidney stone.

However, next year, if I should happen to get stung by a bullet ant (number 1 on the *Schmidt Sting Pain Index*), I will expect a little more sympathy from my fellow hams!

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## NEW HAMS

The latest Technician Licensing Class and associated VE session resulted in eight new hams. Earning their licenses were: Christina Pearson, KG5BYW; D. J. Pearson, KG5BYX; John Newsome, KG5BYY; Beth Elmore, KG5BYZ; Kevin Elmore, KG5BZA; Herb Behlow, KG5BZB; Jim Fitzgerald, KG5CGS; and Kathylene Wright, KG5CGR.

Another recent ham who earned his license before our class is Chuck Corrao, KG5BMK. Chuck has been busy already, participating in the Big Bend Open Road Race and Field Day.

A VE session was held at Field Day (a last chance to take the Technician exam before the new question pool is released on July 1). Passing the exam were Dustin Libby, Daniel Pattison, and Stephanie Pattison.

Congratulations to all these new hams!

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Bill, W5ATO teaching in our last Technician class. The classroom is at the Turner Range Animal Science Center at Sul Ross State University and has state of the art technology.

We are considering holding a General License class in the fall.

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## BBARC HISTORY

Bill, W5ATO, has been pursuing the history of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club. He notes that the club will celebrate 40 years of existence this coming December. We will have a special event to mark the occasion – details forthcoming.

Here is a listing of some major events in the BBARC's history, with an emphasis on emergency communication events:

DATE	EVENT
December 17, 1974	BBARC Constitution signed
September 18, 1977	First Meeting of BBEN
January 1, 1987	West Texas Section of ARRL Created
May 22, 1987	Saragosa Tornado
April 28, 1997	Republic of Texas Stand Off begins
August 22, 1998	Del Rio Flood
August 30, 2008	Union Pacific Argon Gas leak
September 15, 2008	Presidio Flood
April 9, 2011	Rock House Fire
April 9, 2011	Roper Fire
May 8, 2011	Gage Holland Fire
May 8, 2011	Iron Mountain Fire

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## NOT SO RARE DOUBLE ISSUE

Since the editor will be gone for an extended period of time (for the second time in one summer), this issue of *The Bark* will cover two months. In September it is hoped that we will return to a newsletter each month.

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### REPEATER NEWS From W5ATO

There have been intermittent troubles with the link repeater at Elephant Mountain recently. Doug, N5HYD, and I have been changing a few things and trying to fine tune a couple of issues. Before we started this fine tuning, everything was working fine. When we started changing things, we noticed something didn't seem right but we couldn't put our finger on it.

One of the things we did on that trip when things started to seem different was to mount an old 450 Mhz, 8 bay folded dipole antenna so we could sweep it and see if it could tune to a frequency that would be useful to us. On our next trip, we were able to sweep the antenna and determine it is of no use to us at our frequencies, but we were not equipped with a gin pole and climbing belt so we could not remove it from the tower.

Since then we have had all kinds of unusual problems with the hub repeater being able to talk to and from the other repeaters. We were having some heavy weather in the area, but we can't match the weather to ALL of the problems we were having.

Field Day weekend, Doug and I traveled to the site and removed the useless antenna.

There are three more sections of tower on site, and I would like to get them erected so we can elevate our antennas. Another set of guy wires and some turnbuckles for tensioning will be required.

Another trip will be scheduled for later to complete the tower erection. At least 3 or 4 other volunteers to take the tower up to 55 feet and mount antennas and run coax are needed.

Who would like to go on that trip and when should we schedule it? Sooner is better, but certainly before the start of cold weather in October. If you are interested, contact me at:

[w5ato.bill@verizon.net](mailto:w5ato.bill@verizon.net)

Keep in mind that Elephant Mountain is not open to the general public. It is the home of one the last herds of Bighorn Sheep in Texas. The following photo was taken on a recent trip to our repeater system hub site.



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### BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT From WA5ROE

Date	Check-ins	Length	Remarks
May 4	42	37 min	
May 11	32	25 min	
May 18	36	22 min	
May 25	30	30 min	Poor conditions
June 1	37	26 min	
June 8	26	25 min	
June 15	29	30 min	
June 22	37	25 min	
June 29	36	25 min	Net control from K5FD Field Day site

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

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### JULY, AUGUST MEETINGS

This begins the slow season for the BBARC meetings with many members gone on vacations and/or worn out on ham radio after Field Day. The program for the July meeting (July 8 at 7:30 p.m. – notice that the second Tuesday comes early this month) will be on logging programs. There are two major types of logging programs – the type that is used in contests to keep the log and the type that you keep for record keeping and QSL and award tracking.

There has been discussion about a return visit to the Hobby-Eberly telescope at McDonald Observatory. This may be on the agenda for August. It will be interesting to see the progress that has been made on the Dark Skies project.

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## ARRL CENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES

Among the activities in conjunction with the 100<sup>th</sup> 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 July:

July 2 – 5	W1AW/9	Wisconsin
July 2 – 5	W1AW/7	Utah
July 9 – 15	No operations (World Radio Team Championships)	
July 16 – 22	W1AW/4	South Carolina
July 23 – 29	W1AW/9	Indiana
July 23 – 29	W1AW/1	Rhode Island
July 30 – Aug 5	W1AW/0	South Dakota
July 30 – Aug 5	W1AW/4	Kentucky

Here is the schedule for August:

Aug 6 – 12	W1AW/1	Vermont
Aug 6 – 12	W1AW/2	New Jersey
Aug 13 – 19	W1AW/5	Oklahoma
Aug 20 – 26	W1AW/8	Ohio
Aug 20 – 26	W1AW/0	North Dakota
Aug 27 – Sep 2	W1AW/7	Arizona
Aug 27 – Sep 2	W1AW/1	Maine

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

[www.dxscape.com](http://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.

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### THE BARK Newsletter of the BBARC

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club  
1402 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
Alpine, Texas 79830

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## 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

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### 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 sbglobal.net](mailto:n5do@sbglobal.net) to be put on the list.

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### 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, [ka5pyb at yahoo.com](mailto:ka5pyb@yahoo.com)

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### 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

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### BBARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**July 8, 2014, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.**

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank Building  
Program “Logging Programs”

**August 12, 2014, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.**

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank Building  
Program “TBA”