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Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, AD5BB

November, 2014

Alpine, Texas

2014 FIELD DAY RESULTS ANNOUNCED

The December, 2014 issue of *QST* was released in digital format on November 10 and the Field Day results are now available. After 40 consecutive Field Days, the BBARC has achieved its best finish ever! We finished number six in the United States and Canada in the 2A class.

A detailed look at the results over the past 11 years for K5FD is available in the following table:

Field Day results

Year	Class	QSOs	Percentile Rank
2004	2A	2391	94.7
2005	3A	2642	96.9
2006	3A	2053	96.2
2007	2A	2823	98.5
2008	2A	2303	96.3
2009	2A	1992	94.0
2010	2A	2237	96.0
2011	2A	2613	95.1
2012	1A	1188	81.5
2013	2A	1936	85.6
2014	2A	2979	98.5

The column labeled **Percentile Rank** might need some explanation. The percentile rank is the percentage of scores lower than our score. It can be seen that for many of these years we finished in the top 5% or so. This year's percentile rank of 98.5 is equaled by the performance in 2007, but we had more contacts this year and finished higher.

This year we had some amazingly good runs on SSB which got the rate meter on N1MM up high. Also, the GOTA station made a fair number of QSOs and, due to the vigilance of a number of individuals, we made some 6-meter QSOs.

Next year's Field Day will be the weekend of June 27 – 28. Mark it on your calendar now to avoid any conflicts next year.

HOW TO DO WELL IN FIELD DAY!

Based on our above average results in Field Day, here are some pointers for other groups:

1. Plan to operate all 24 hours. The hardest thing to do is to keep your BIC ("butt in the chair"). Even a low rate of 30 QSOs per hour (one every two minutes) results in 720 QSOs over 24 hours for one transmitter.
2. Get or make a gain antenna for the 10-15-20 meter bands. Someone must have an old TA-33 stuck in a pile somewhere that you can use. Or use Field Day as a chance to experiment with antennas – the variety of antennas I have built at Field Day would boggle the imagination.
3. Get antennas up as high as possible. Even having that beam up 20 feet will work well. Tie a rope to the end of it and rotate using the "Armstrong" method (tug on the rope to move the antenna around). Use a push up mast to get dipoles for 40 and 80 meters up around 40 feet or so. Some years we have used a rental lift truck to get our antennas up to the 40 to 45 foot range.
4. Run don't walk. There are two ways to operate in Field Day: running and S&P. Running is finding a clear frequency and calling "CQ Field Day." Work the ensuing pileup. S&P is short for "Search and Pounce." Tune around and find someone calling "CQ Field Day" and join the pileup calling the running station. You will work more stations by running than S&P'ing.
5. Get all the bonus points possible – read the FD rules to find the whole list, but a few are getting publicity, making a "natural power" QSO (solar, wind, etc.), setting up a table with material for visitors, having Field Day in a public location, having an elected official visit your site, etc.
6. Have a big meal for all your club members, operators or not, and their spouses and children and friends. Saturday night is a good time to do this. Either have everyone chip in to buy food which a small group will prepare or have a potluck.
7. Remember – **It is not a contest!** Contests make new operators nervous, they make old timers stand around and shake their heads at the miserable job the newcomers are doing, and no one ends up having fun.
8. **The goal of Field Day is to have fun.** You win if everyone has a good time regardless of your score.

“SANTA NET” TO RETURN ON DECEMBER 11

Last year’s “Santa Net” was one of our more successful ones. Over 50 children (along with parents, grandparents, etc) talked to Santa Claus via ham radio. Given the success last year the BBARC will once again sponsor an opportunity for children to talk to Santa Claus. Thursday evening, December 11, from 5 to 7 p.m., the BBARC Emergency Communications Van will be parked in front of Morrison True Value. Any children wishing to talk to Santa, and receive a free candy cane, are welcome to participate. Inside the store hot cider will be available for adults and children. Thanks to our president, WA5ROE, for his support of this activity.

Thanks also to Rob Kinucan, KE5KNQ, and his wife Kristi, for their work in heading up this event. They also promote the event in the area public and private schools. One of the BBARC assets that help pull this activity off is that some of our members have a special contact with Santa and are able to get him on the air for the net.

Anyone who would like to assist should plan to be at True Value by 4:45 p.m. on Thursday, December 11. If you don’t have time for the whole event, stop by and visit for a while.

BIG BEND ULTRA RUN

Bill, W5ATO, will be helping to coordinate the BBARC involvement in the Big Bend Ultra Run on January 18, 2015. This will be the first year the event will be held at Big Bend Ranch State Park. It appears this is a more rugged park than Big Bend National Park, the previous home of the Big Bend Ultra Run.

The Big Bend Ultra Run is made up of two races: the Buena Suerte 50 Mile and the Quicksilver 30K. Here is a summary of the physical location:

There are no paved roads, grocery supplies, or fuel stations in the park. From Presidio to the Saucedo Ranch Headquarters (Aid Station Echo), there is a 26 mile dirt road that takes about 1hour, 15 minutes or more to travel. A two wheel drive vehicle with moderate clearance will have no trouble if you drive carefully. Motor Homes will not be able to navigate this road. Contact BBRSP to discuss your situation if your vehicle is longer than a standard pickup or if you are pulling a trailer.

There is a bunk house at Saucedo and several two wheel drive accessible campsites nearby. From Saucedo to Aid Station Delta the road becomes very rugged and 4 wheel drive is recommended. From Delta to Aid Station Charlie the road is very narrow with sharp turns, so short wheelbase 4 wheel drive is recommended.

From Saucedo to Aid Station Fox a two wheel drive, high clearance vehicle can make it. From Fox to Aid Station Golf requires a four wheel drive vehicle.

From Lajitas, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will shuttle volunteers to Aid Station Alpha. Volunteers working Aid Station Bravo and Aid Station Hotel will have to hike from Aid Station Alpha.

All volunteers will need to plan to get to their assigned position on Saturday, January 17. This course will be challenging for the runners and the volunteers as well.

If you are available to assist, especially if you have a four wheel drive vehicle, please contact W5ATO via email at w5ato.bill@verizon.net.

For additional information on the race visit:

www.bigbend50.com

For information on BBRSP visit:

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/big-bend-ranch

BBARC MEETINGS

The December meeting will be a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club. It is being planned for this to be held at a local establishment. Details are still being confirmed with the manager of the facility.

To get everyone in the mood to look back over our forty-year history, a copy of the *Worldradio* lead article on the tragic Saragosa toronado of May, 1987 is attached to this newsletter.

BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT From WA5ROE

Date	Check-ins	Length	Remarks
Oct 5	37	30 min	
Oct 12	40	17 min	new member: KB5HGM, Ron, Abilene
Oct 19	33	25 min	new call for KC5DZM – now AG5BB
Oct 26	34	29 min	K5YR, Bryan, Midland, Silent Key

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 Anniveresary 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 November

November 12 – 19	W1AW/1	Rhode Island
November 12 – 19	W1AW/5	Mississippi
November 19 – 26	W1AW/4	Florida
November 19 – 26	W1AW/5	Arkansas
November 26 – Dec. 3	W1AW/3	Delaware
November 26 – Dec. 3	W1AW/5	Louisiana

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.

REPEATER SYSTEM UPDATE from W5ATO

For several weeks the 146.92 Glass Mountains repeater seems to be shutting down overnight and returning after sun-up and working fine through the day.

On October 12 we removed the 5-1/2 year old golf cart batteries and replaced them with four deep cycle RV/Marine batteries. The charge controller was supplying about 14.75 volts to the battery terminals with no batteries connected, so it looks good.

Hopefully, the 146.92 Glass Mountains repeater should be back to full health.

THE BARK Newsletter of the BBARC

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club
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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

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

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

December 12, 2014, Thursday, 5 – 7:00 P.M.
SANTA NET
Morrison True Value Hardware parking lot.

January 13, 2015, Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.
BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank Building
Program to be determined

January 18, 2015
Big Bend Ultra Run
Big Bend State Park

