

**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

December, 2014

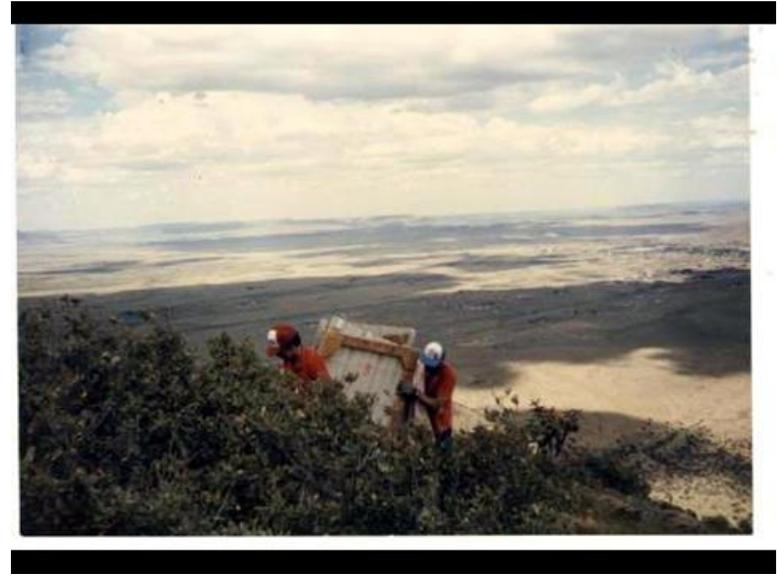
Alpine, Texas

### BIG BEND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ANNIVERSARY

This small article in the September 12, 1974 issue of the *Alpine Avalanche* announced the formation of a new club: the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club. The first item of business was to draft a set of Bylaws for the club. Borrowing from the Texas VHF – FM Society bylaws, the BBARC approved the new bylaws in December, 1974. The official date of the founding of the BBARC has been established as December 17, 1974.



The next photo shows a much younger WA5ROE and N5DO carrying material up Twin Peaks mountain to build the repeater enclosure.



This photo shows Jim, N5JOE, and others installing our first repeater on Christmas Mountain, 146.82.



Over the years the BBARC has evolved into a “general purpose” club, with no one emphasis, although we have always had a major focus on “licensing and installation of a FM 2-meter repeater station” as mentioned in the newspaper.

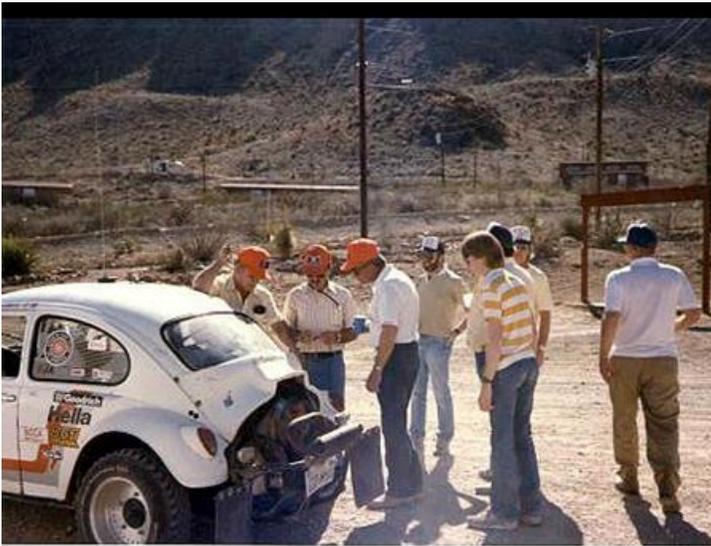
The first 2-meter repeater was installed on A Mountain, overlooking Alpine, on 146.94 Mhz. The repeater worked well, but coverage was limited to just the Alpine valley. It was decided to move the repeater to the old TV relay building on the top of Twin Peaks, which is now the site of the 146.72 repeater.

Of course, that single repeater has grown into the BBARC repeater system with seven repeaters (including a portable emergency repeater) linked together to cover the southern part of the Big Bend region. The system hub is now on Elephant Mountain.

Field Day has been another constant activity of the BBARC, since the first one in which we participated in June, 1975. That first BBARC Field Day took place on Big Hill, on Highway 118 south of Alpine. This photo shows an early Field Day at that site:



Another constant activity over the years has been providing communication for a variety of public service events, such as bicycle and running races. One of the earliest such events was the Sports Car Club of America Big Bend Bash, a pro rally event over back roads. This photo shows a group of hams gathered around someone's VW bug, modified to become a chase vehicle. The guys with orange hats are from the San Angelo ARC, who used to participate in many of our public service activities that occurred in south Brewster County.



## ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

In lieu of the monthly BBARC meeting, a special Fortieth Anniversary Celebration will be held on Tuesday evening, December 9, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., at the Saddle Club (211 E. Holland Ave.) in Alpine. We will gather upstairs to celebrate this milestone with free beer, wine, soft drinks, and heavy hors d'oeuvres. If you would prefer a cocktail, you will be responsible for buying your own drink at the bar downstairs. No speeches, reading of the minutes, treasurer's report, or other routine meeting activities. This will be a social event with a chance to visit among our members and their spouses or guests.

The Saddle Club needs an approximate headcount in order to prepare for us. Please send an email to Bob Ward, WA5ROE, ([wa5roe@juno.com](mailto:wa5roe@juno.com)) by 6:00 p.m. this Thursday, December 4, or call him at 386-3041 to let him know if you will attend and the number of guests you will have.

Some longtime club members have donated the funds to pay for this activity – no BBARC funds are being used.

We would like to have everyone there to make this a fun event!

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## “SANTA NET” TO RETURN ON DECEMBER 11 (Reprinted from the November *BARK*)

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.

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## SILENT KEYS

Two of our long-time members have recently become silent keys. James Cook, K5FD, passed away on Monday, November 17. See the following article by Bill KE5OG for more information.

While we were still coming to grips with the loss of K5FD, we received the word from Jim, NV5S, that his wife, Regina Worster, KA5GCI, passed away November 25.

Regina grew up in Bel Air, MD and graduated from Bel Air High School. She moved from Bel Air to Brewster County Texas, where she met and married James Worster in 1978. They lived in Lajitas for 10 years and she worked for Lajitas on the Rio Grande Resort.

Gene and Jim moved to Alpine where she worked to become a Master Certified Horticulturalist for Morrison True Value Hardware. They moved to Bryan in 2004 to be closer to their family, especially enjoying time with their grandchildren. She will be remembered as a loving mother, grandmother and dear friend.

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### “YOU WANT ME TO DO THAT?” By KE5OG

“You want me to do that?” I can't count the number of times I heard that. It might come when I was trying to get a bolt loose on a tower or trying to solder a small part on a printed circuit board.

It was never spoken with conceit or arrogance but with genuine patience and concern for me.

That was the way of James Cook, K5FD. James passed away recently and much too soon. But the legacy he leaves with us is monumental.

And his patience is legendary. I once had the chance to be a co-driver with James in an SCCA Pro Rally event. We had driven all the way to South Carolina to participate. On the second stage of the race, I made a tenth of a mile mistake that fouled up the whole trip. James didn't yell at me. He didn't speak to me for a little while, but we remained friends. His reaction to my mistake was much different than I would have had, but then...that was James.

James Cook was a builder. He was a builder of fine things. I, and doubtless many of you, still have black boxes with knobs, lights and switches on them that were designed and constructed by James.

All over the Big Bend area, there are beautiful homes that were the result of James' work.

But most importantly there are relationships that were built and nurtured by James Cook. As we go through life we sometimes have the opportunity to come upon a person who is just a nice guy. That was James. He was pleasant and honest and rock steady. And, in spite of his busy schedule, he always had time for his friends.

James' efforts in amateur radio centered mostly around his desire to make things. He would come up with an idea for a device, design the circuit, spec the parts and build it. Or in some cases, let us build it. Often, he would go so far as to write a manual for construction and use.

He didn't operate on the radio much but he was a solid contest operator. He could keep his butt in the chair and grind it out. No flash...just steady.

One of James' wishes was that the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club take the K5FD call sign. That is the least we can do. Since James and Roxine and their family arrived here, we have used K5FD as our field day call. It is a well known, and well respected, call sign.

The Almighty must have an important project in the works. He needed someone he could count on to get it done right. James is the man.

We will make thousands of contacts as K5FD. I hope that we can always keep in mind the man behind the call, what he stood for and the legacy he bequeathed to us.

73 James.

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### BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT From WA5ROE

Date	Check-ins	Length	Remarks
Nov 2	44	37 min	
Nov 9	36	27 min	
Nov 16	37	27 min	
Nov 23	37	26 min	K5FD, James, Alpine, Silent Key
Nov 30	41	28 min	KA5GCI, Regina, Bryan, Silent Key W5NPI, Vasco, El Paso, 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 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.

This month will be the last for this extremely popular activity. Thousands of hams have been diligent in pursuing new states as they come on the air with the W1AW portable call signs.

Here is the schedule for December:

December 3 – 10	W1AW/9	Illinois
December 3 – 10	W1AW/1	Maine
December 10 – 16	W1AW/9	Indiana
December 10 – 16	W1AW/7	Montana
December 17 – 23	W1AW/3	Maryland
December 17 – 23	W1AW/KH6	Hawaii
December 17 – 23	W1AW/4	Georgia
December 24 – 31	W1AW/3	Pennsylvania
December 24 – 31	W1AW/0	Iowa

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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### REPEATER SYSTEM UPDATE from W5ATO

I want to:

replace the 146.920 2 meter repeater.

install new coax and antenna on 147.12, Cibolo. Antenna and coax are prepared and just waiting installation. Need myself and two others for safety.

erect one more section of tower at Elephant, move the 440 link antenna to the top, leave all other antennas as they are.

mount a 4 element beam antenna for 146.820 for the Big Bend Ultra Run to insure strong coverage at station HOTEL. I have an antenna and some mast. With three people the current mast can be lowered, the antenna assembled, and the mast and antenna re-mounted. We will need about 40 feet of coax. This will be a temporary installation and removed after the race. RG213, RG8, LMR400, should be OK for temporary service, and mounting a mast to the old antenna mast will gain another

6-10 feet of vertical elevation, and I hope, enough separation from the radios to avoid feedback.

SO!!! Who is up for what, and when?

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

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### REMINDER: BIG BEND ULTRA RUN

Operators needed for the Big Bend Ultra Run on January 18, 2015 at Big Bend Ranch State Park (you will need to arrive on January 17 to get in position). Details in the November issue of the *BARK*.

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

For additional information on the race visit:

[www.bigbend50.com](http://www.bigbend50.com)

For information on BBRSP visit:

[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/big-bend-ranch](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/big-bend-ranch)

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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

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

Editor: Dave Cockrum, N5DO  
[n5do at sbcglobal.net](mailto:n5do@sbcglobal.net)

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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 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 sbccglobal.net](mailto:n5do@sbccglobal.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, [ka5pvb at yahoo.com](mailto:ka5pvb@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

### December 9, 2014, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club  
Saddle Club Bar

### December 11, 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