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

February, 2015

Alpine, Texas

### ANNUAL BANQUET

The annual BBARC banquet will be Friday, February 13 in Room 129 of the Gallego Center at Sul Ross State University in Alpine. For those not familiar with the Sul Ross campus, the Gallego Center is the facility on the east end of the main campus that houses the arena for basketball and other sports as well as major activities such as Commencement. Room 129 is on the bottom floor on the north end of the building; it is sometimes called the “window room” because of the glass wall.

Beer, wine, and soft drinks will be provided free from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. with the meal beginning at 7:00 p.m. Guests are welcome.

The meal will be catered by ARAMARK, the University’s food service contractor. Cost is \$18 per person (pay at the door), with a choice of chicken fried steak or pecan crusted chicken. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the February 10<sup>th</sup> club meeting. If you don’t get your name on that list, please put in reservations with your choice of beef or chicken no later than Wednesday, February 11 by contacting Dave Cockrum, N5DO, at 837-3711 or via e-mail [n5do@sbcglobal.net](mailto:n5do@sbcglobal.net) or Bob Ward, WA5ROE, at Morrison True Value Hardware, 386-3041 .

There will be a brief program and door prizes. Master of Ceremonies will be Bill, KE5OG, and the program will be “Hollywood does Ham Radio,” a brief look at several movies that featured ham radio.

### REMINDER -- 2015 DUES NOW DUE!

If you haven’t paid your dues for 2015, now is the time. So remember to bring your check (or cash) for \$36 to the next BBARC meeting and give it to Angie, N5MVV or drop it off at True Value Hardware in Alpine to Bob, WA5ROE.

### BIG BEND ULTRA RUN SUMMARY from W5ATO and WA5ROE

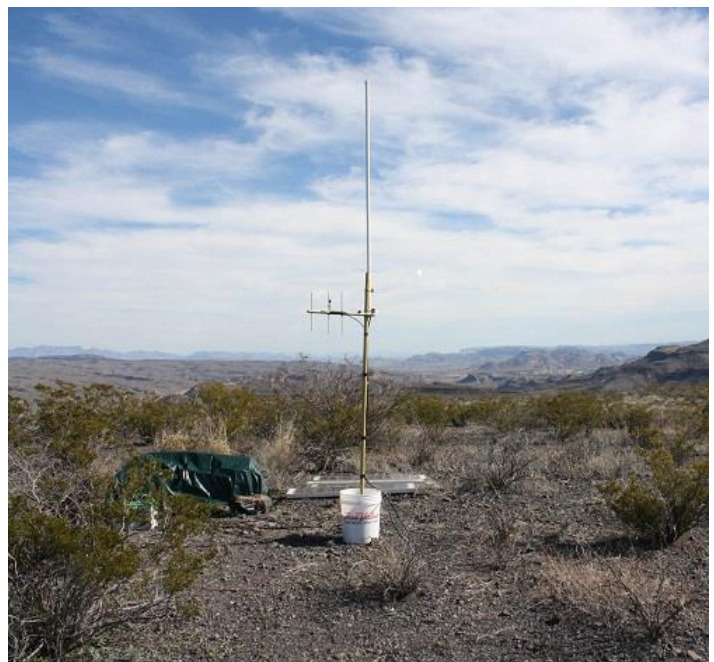
Planning for radio communications for the 2015 Bueno Serta Ultra Run in Big Bend Ranch State Park began in April, 2014. From the beginning it was known this would be a more difficult communication exercise than the previous Ultra Runs held in Big Bend National Park.

The course went through one of the most rugged areas of the Big Bend, with peaks, ridges, and steep canyons making it impossible

to cover with just one portable repeater. There are no paved roads in the Ranch with motor vehicle access only possible in the north half of the course; much of that is extreme 4 wheel drive terrain where travel speeds drop to 6 miles per hour or less.

Over the course of the following months, using the topographic features of Google Earth, many possible sites were selected and tested to see if clear paths were available to existing repeaters. This was done for every 2 degrees of the compass from each potential site, requiring several hours work to complete each analysis.

In October, an onsite visit was made to see the terrain and some of the potential site locations. The bad news: the terrain was far more difficult than expected and most site locations would be impossible to reach and set up without an army of strong and healthy volunteers. The good news: about 30% of the course was covered by 3 of our permanent system repeaters.



145.23 emergency repeater near Chorro Vista

The race director felt it was imperative that we have 5 watt coverage on sections of the course that were single track foot paths. There would be no mobile access in the event an incident occurred on these paths.

The final plan called for one portable repeater and 3 cross-band stations around the course. While equipment was reduced to a

minimum and the sites located in as easy locations to reach as could be found, compromises still had to be made when it came time to set it up.

In the end, it all worked. One station had difficulties setting up one cross-band station and instead relied on relay transmissions through the nearest aid station.

Designing and setting up the repeaters for this race was just one part of the challenge. The aid station volunteers all had to face the same roads and terrain to reach their stations -- many of them camped at their station the night before and some even the night after the race.



**Water stop with volunteer and two runners – no, number 73 is not a ham!**

Texas Parks and Wildlife brought in their rangers and officers and they set up their own incident command system and had their people around the course as well. The communications center for their group was at the Warnock Center in Lajitas, and the net control for the hams was set up in the BBARC communications RV in the Warnock Center parking lot. A ham liaison kept communication established between the two systems.

Race statistics:    48 started 80K run  
                          134 started 30K run  
                          43 started 10K run

225 total runners

9 DNF on 80K

Started net at 4:30am, 80K started at 5:35am and last runner came in at 8:28pm, 15 hours. Closed net at 8:30pm. We had 21 hams participating.

The event went quite smoothly for a first time event, and exceptionally well considering the challenges of the location.

Participants, sponsors, and volunteers alike were all very pleased with the results and it looks like this event is going to be a growing attraction in the future.

So many thanks to all the volunteers who helped out, whether it was for an hour or a day or two, or in any other way. The 2015 Big Bend Ranch State Park Ultra Run was a huge success.

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## **BIG BEND 50-THANK YOU**

I wanted to take a moment this morning and thank each and every one who was a part of the Big Bend 50 event yesterday. Whether it was providing customer service, planning a venue, accommodations, the means, providing communications, setting up communications, manning an aid station, volunteer service, EMS services, or for some of us work (although yesterday was hard for me to consider work, because I love what I do!); yesterday was a successful event at Big Bend Ranch State Park!

*"To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."* This statement is our mission and one aspect of this is to provide outdoor recreation opportunities. I think we accomplished this yesterday with having this event in the park, and attracting some people to the park who may or may not have otherwise come to our area. What a wonderful experience it was to be a part of this event yesterday. I truly believe that life is better outside, and we were able to live that yesterday and be a part of other's experiences in the park. I asked one runner of the 50 mile race "If you could describe the event in one word, what would that be?" He said, "Amazing!" He went on to say that he was tired, sore and exhausted, but he loved it. This is just one of many compliments that we all heard while out on the course or at the Incident Command. Overall, it was a very positive turn out of runners and outcome of the event.

This would not have been possible without the efforts of ALL OF YOU who came to volunteer/work this event. Many people drove long distances to be here, sacrificed personal time away from family, had multiple trips to the park, and put in long hours. I am so thankful to have had this opportunity to be a part of a wonderful experience. There were very few minor injuries over the course of the entire day, so for some of us it was an uneventful day, but rewarding. This is exactly what we had hoped for, no serious injuries. For Parks and Wildlife, we accomplished our goal, and we got people outside!

Once again, THANK YOU for all your efforts!

Barrett Durst  
Big Bend Ranch State Park-Sauceda  
Superintendent/Police Officer

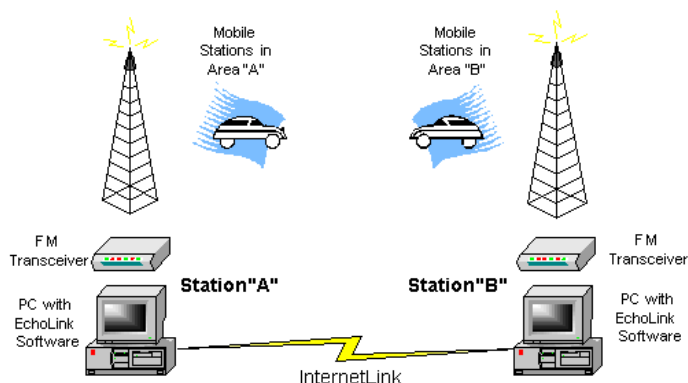
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## PROGRAM FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the BBARC will be Tuesday, February 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the West Texas National Bank.

After the normal business meeting the program will consist of a group discussion on Echolink. Some hams outside of the immediate Big Bend area have expressed an interest in being able to talk to our repeater system using Echolink. See the attached diagram for an overview of Echolink.

### Linking Example



The program runs on Microsoft Windows®. It is offered free of charge and may be downloaded [here](#).

## BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT From WA5ROE

Date	Check-ins	Length	Remarks
Jan 4	41	20 min	
Jan 11	40	22 min	Add KA5Y, Tex, Big Bend
Jan 18	40	30 min	
Jan 25	45	32 min	

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

## 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)

## 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.

## 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

**February 5, 2015, Thursday, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.**

**February 12, 2015, Thursday, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.**

**February 19, 2015, Thursday, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS, Room 130, Turner Range  
Animal Science Center, Sul Ross State University

**February 10, 2015, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.**

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank Building  
Program "Echolink discussion"

**February 13, 2015, Friday, 6:30 p.m.**

BBARC Annual Banquet  
Gallego Center, Room 129  
Sul Ross State University

**February 19, 2015, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.**

VOLUNTEER EXAMINATION SESSION, Room 130, Turner  
Range Animal Science Center, Sul Ross State University

**March 10, 2015, Tuesday, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

BBARC MEETING  
Skywarn Training  
Warnock Science Building  
Room 201  
Sul Ross State University

**April 14, 2015, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.**

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank Building  
Program "NF5FF – experiments with two meters in private  
airplanes"

**April 22 - 25, Wed.-Sat.**

Big Bend Open Road Rally  
<http://www.bbarr.com/>

**June 27-28, 2015, Sat.-Sun.**

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