

sending anything that comes in on that 440 radio through the rest of our system, that can now be done. As of now Cary does not have a repeater set up in that area, but there is now a UHF path that can be used to link a repeater into our system whenever one is ready. As of now, this part of the project is still experimental.

In the meantime, if you travel north of the Glass Mountains and want to give the 440 simplex link a try, the frequency is 445.950 SIMPLEX with 146.2 PL tone. If your radio uses Automatic Repeater Shift it may want to tune this frequency to a minus offset, so check to be sure you set it to simplex.

All other repeaters seem to be working well at this time. Christmas Mountain (146.820) acted up a couple of times a few weeks ago. However, when we tried to control it and shut it off, it simply corrected itself and began working properly. Wet weather seems to contribute to this repeater's occasional misbehavior, although we think the solution will be to increase the separation between the repeater and the antenna.

The McDonald Observatory (146.620) repeater became noisy for a while on Saturday during the Hammerfest bicycle activity, but was still workable. Sunday it was just fine. Higher traffic cycle rate on Saturday may have stressed the batteries and caused signals to be weak. It is working fine now.

NEW CALLSIGNS AND UPGRADES

Last month it was mentioned that there are three new hams in Alpine. This month we are pleased to report that two have already upgraded to General Class (talk about fast work!). They also have received new callsigns: Robin Ritchie is now KK5ROB and her husband John Steven Ritchie is now W5JSR. While W5JSR are obviously his initials, and he will answer to either John or Steve, most of us know him as Steve. Congratulations to the Ritchies for their rapid upgrade.

TECHNICIAN CLASS TO BEGIN IN SOUTH BREWSTER COUNTY

Julianne Braun, KF5RDN, has discovered considerable interest in a Technician license class for individuals in the Terlingua/Study Butte/Lajitas/BBNP area. Classes will be held on two Saturdays, April 11 and 18 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Family Crisis Center meeting room in the Terlingua Ghost Town.

At 4:30 pm on April 18 an exam session will be held. The exam will be open to anyone who is interested, whether they participated in the class or not. The VE session will be held in the same facility as the class, the meeting room at the Crisis Center in the Terlingua Ghost Town. For additional information contact Julianne at 432-371-2996 or at [deracs at gmail.com](mailto:deracs@gmail.com).

The class is free, but the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, 3rd edition, 2014, is required and will be available for purchase at the class.

PROGRAM FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the BBARC will be Tuesday, April 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the traditional meeting place in the meeting room at the West Texas National Bank in Alpine.

After the business portion of the meeting, the program will be presented by Steve Posner, NF5FF. The title of his presentation is: "Simplex Repeaters, Crossband Repeaters, Airborne Repeaters, and Other Ugly Ducklings."

While it may (or may not) be clear from the title of his presentation, Steve has several interests. Among them are flying small planes and operating amateur radio. In this talk he will highlight some of his efforts to best merge the two interests.

BIG BEND EMERGENCY NET REPORT From WA5ROE

Date	Check-ins	Length	Remarks
Mar 1	40	30 min	
Mar 8	32	25 min	
Mar 15	39	26 min	
Mar 22	41	30 min	
Mar 29	47	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.

CONTEST RECORDS

There are a small but dedicated group of contest operators in the BBARC. A quick look at some on-line record data bases shows that KA5PVB, KE5OG, and N5DO hold a total of 16 contest records between them. Some are individual and some are multi-op records. One of the records is a North American record, some are ARRL West Gulf records, some are ARRL West Texas records, and some are U.S. 5th District records. They were set in a variety of contests, including the ARRL 10 Meter contest (CW, SSB, and MIXED), the ARRL DX contests (both CW and SSB), the ARRL RTTY Roundup, the ARRL Sweepstakes (both CW and SSB), the CQ WPX DX contest (both CW and SSB), the CQWW DX contest (both CW and SSB). If you hear one of them on, give them a call – they can always “use the point!”

THE BARK Newsletter of the BBARC

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club
1402 N. 5th 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

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.

Established by Bob Ayer, KA1AAJ (SK)

Net Manager, Chuck Dobbins, KA5PVB, [charles.dobbins52 at yahoo.com](mailto:charles.dobbins52@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

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

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank Building
Program: Steve Posner, NF5FF, "Simplex Repeater, Crossband Repeater, Airborne Repeater, and Other Ugly Ducklings."

April 22 - 25, Wed.-Sat.

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

May 12, 2015, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

BBARC MEETING, West Texas National Bank Building
Program: Jonathan Baize, AD5OJ, "Homebrew telemetry system to check the status of stock tanks."

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

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