

About Us

Our club was founded in 1993 as the Bella Vista Repeater Group. The club's name was changed to the Bella Vista Radio Club in 2014. It is the largest and fastest growing amateur radio club in the state of Arkansas.

Our club is dedicated to promoting amateur (or ham) radio, different club operating activities, and to educate and provide emergency communications assistance as needed, here in Northwest Arkansas.

We provide or assist in the following:

- Mentoring of new ham licensees by experienced club members.
- VE testing for FCC licenses at 2pm on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

There are two testing locations:

- Bella Vista Fire Station #1
103 Towncenter
Bella Vista, AR
 - Shiloh Museum of
Ozark History
118 W. Johnson Ave.
Sprindale, AR
- We provide and maintain an open 2-meter FM repeater located near Bella Vista.
 - Lots of fun and rewarding operating activities such as Field Day, Special Event Stations, contesting, etc.

Meetings

The Bella Vista Radio Club meets on the FIRST THURSDAY of each month at the Golden Corral, 2605 W Pleasant Crossing Drive in Rogers, AR (I-49, Exit 81). Start time for each meeting is 7:00 pm. Whether licensed or a prospective ham, you are cordially invited to attend a club meeting as our Guest.

Club Membership

Club dues are \$15 per year. Club membership includes all the rights and privileges of Club membership, and subscription to our outstanding newsletter, *The Signal*. Also, if you have licensed family members living at your home domicile you can enroll as a 'family membership' at no additional charge. Also, club members who are 73 years of age and older receive a BVRC Lifetime membership, where payment of annual dues is no longer required. Visit our website for more information, and where you can also download an Application for Membership: <https://bellavistaradioclub.org/membership/>.

Local Club Radio Nets

BVRC WEEKLY NET - WEDNESDAYS, 8pm

On the BVRC repeater: 147.255, +0.600 offset,
162.2 PL tone

NW ARKANSAS WIDE AREA NET

WEDNESDAYS - 9pm

On the NW Arkansas Skyward Linked Repeater System:

- Bentonville - 146.865, -offset, PL 103.5
- Fayetteville - 147.315, +offset, PL 97.4
- Huntsville - 443.625, +offset, PL 97.4
- Green Forest -146.310, -offset, pl103.5

SUNDAY AFTERNOON 75-METER ROUNDTABLE

Sundays at 4pm local time, 3.820 KHz

(Rev. 1/8/22)



Welcome!

What is Ham Radio?

Amateur radio – or ham radio – is a fun and exciting hobby that offers a vast array of activities!

- Talking around the world without wires
- Talking locally through repeaters
- Emergency Communications
- Contests and awards
- Contacting amateur radio satellites in space, including the International Space Station
- Using classic communication modes like Morse code and radioteletype (RTTY)
- Using new communications modes such as Automatic Position Reporting (APRS), spread spectrum, FT8, and JT65
- Foxhunting (using radio direction finding techniques to find a hidden transmitter)
- Moonbounce (contacting other amateur operators by bouncing radio waves off the moon)
- And much, much, more!



Licensing Requirements

To operate an amateur radio, you must pass a written examination and be assigned a callsign by the FCC (i.e. AB5CDE).

The FCC issues three classes: Technician, General, and Amateur Extra amateur radio licenses. The examination for the Technician license is fairly easy, covering basic amateur radio regulations, safety, and operating practices, and simple electronic theory. The exam has 35 questions, and you must score 75% or higher to pass.

It takes about 10 hours of study depending on your background and memorization ability, to prepare for the Technician exam. The Technician license is primarily useful for talking around town using repeaters but allows very limited access to the longer distance frequency bands.

The General and Amateur Extra class licenses allow access to high frequency (HF) bands for long distance and/or global communications. The higher the license you acquire, the more frequencies you are allowed to operate.

IMPORTANT: When attending a VE testing session, you ***MUST*** have already acquired an FCC Federal Registration Number (FRN).

You can apply for and obtain an FRN by going to the FCC website:

<https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/support/universal-licensing-system-uls-resources/getting-fcc-registration-number-frn>

Our Club has accredited Volunteer Examiners (VEs) who provide monthly testing services for new and upgrading hams.

ELMER 9-1-1

One of the unique features of the Bella Vista Radio Club, is our ELMER 9-1-1 program. With such a large membership, BVRC is able to offer this invaluable resource to its members, especially newcomers to the hobby.

BVRC has a team of Elmer's (which is the ham radio term for "mentor") in place to help you in just about any area of the hobby!

The process is simple – whenever you have a question, problem, or issue that you need assistance with or that is baffling you, you can get help! Simply go to the BVRC website and click the ELMER 9-1-1 tab. This will take you to a form that you simply fill-out and submit.

A screenshot of the Bella Vista Radio Club website. The header shows the club name and call sign N5BVA. The main content area is titled 'Elmer 911' and contains a form with the following fields: 'Your Name (Required)', 'Amateur Radio Call Sign', 'Your Email (Required)', and 'Choose your area of interest (Antennas)'. There is also a small paragraph of text above the form.

Your submission will be e-mailed to our ELMER 9-1-1 Coordinator, who will then have an Elmer with expertise in the area you're having a problem with to contact you and aid you in finding the solution to your dilemma.

The ELMER 9-1-1 program is one of the exclusive features and benefits of being a BVRC member.