

# the B-VARC BULLETIN

of

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
Fort Bend County, Texas

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Vol 3, No.5

November, 1980

Editor-in-Chief -- Stu Lamkin WB5IGG, 7401 Heilig, Houston TX 77074

Production Editor -- Dick Hagerman WB5SRN

Associate Editors -- Dale Williams WD5AJC  
Larry Levy WD5 DRB  
Dick Hagerman WB5SRN  
Bob Spradling W5UBD

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## CALENDAR

Brazos Valley Public Service Net - Each Monday, 9 P.M. local, 147.60/00  
Ft. Bend County Civil Defense Net - Each Tuesday, 9 P.M. local, 146.16/76  
B-VARC November meeting - Thurs., Nov. 13, 7:30 P.M., Missouri City fire  
station  
ARRL National Convention 1983 - Dates and places in Houston to be an-  
nounced later

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## AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Included in this mailing is a copy of the Memorial Hospital System publication CARING. Beginning with a double page picture spread on pages 18-19 is a story about the proposed 2-meter/220 MHz repeater installation that B-VARC is trying to get together. This story was written quite a while ago and, at the time of interviews with Bob Spradling and Tom Cole, it was expected that the installation would be operating by publication time.

From a purely objective standpoint, it is one the best PR pieces about the public service of amateur radio we've seen. We suggest you keep it

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS IN PUBLIC SERVICE (Cont.)

on file together with a copy of the FCC publication RADIO-TV INTERFERENCE PROBLEMS for use if or when you might have need to discuss the subjects of ham radio and TVI with one of your neighbors.

1980 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test

According to Roger Shaper W5CKC, ARRL-Harris County Emergency Coordinator and District 21 RACES Radio Officer, there was fairly good participation in spots but it could have been better. The 147.69/09 group in the NW Sector had a very active and interesting simulation and an HF net. There was quite a bit of activity in the SW Sector but only sporadic participation in the NE and SE Sectors and in Galveston, Brazoria, and Ft. Bend Counties. The exercise was a learning experience, cooperated in by the weather which was bad, and illustrated somewhat that which could be expected in this kind of weather conditions, especially on HF. (Bob Cox AB5X, ARRL-Harris County, SW Sector Emergency Coordinator, reported there was a solar flare condition which intensified the normal noisy daytime HF conditions.) The direct frequency plan worked out well, proving the efficacy of direct communications under emergency conditions. Several pieces of formal traffic were handled, both locally and into established traffic nets for out of area delivery. The exercise also proved the need of hams to become familiar with and experienced in the creation and handling of formal traffic.

Roger Bryant WA5RNL, Ft. Bend County Radio Officer, said there was not planned any formal activity for the Ft. Bend County group, but that several stations did check in on the 16/76 machine. He also stated that several pieces of traffic were originated in and passed out of the county during the test.

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Hams Help Out

Dale Williams WD5AJC

The following amateurs participated at the Houston Ham Convention by directing vehicles to good parking space: Rodney Baden K5YKC, Ron Bolyard KA5GYG, Henry Freedenberg N5HF, Dick Hagerman WB5SRN, Stu Lamkin WB5IGG, Tom Shapiro KA5GJO, Glenn Williams KA5BIU, and Dale Williams WD5AJC.

The Mission Bend Civic Club sponsored a 10 Kilometer run (about 6.2 miles) called the Mission Bend 10K on Saturday, October 18. We all got

Hams Help Out (Cont.)

tee shirts with "Mission Bend 10K 1980" written across the fronts. The amateurs who helped were: Steve Gottlieb WA5OEN, Dick Hagerman WB5SRN, Stu Lamkin WB5IGG, Richard Shankle N5KV, and Dale Williams WD5AJC.

I want to thank these amateurs who came out and gave their time and effort so these projects could be a success.

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ROSTER

Welcome to the following new members who joined us at the October meeting. Please add them to your roster to keep it up to date.



Kurt Freiburger WB5BBW, 8522 Redcliff, Houston 77064, fone 466-4559  
Jay Morris N5CIQ, 13822 Vinehill Drive, Sugar Land 77478, fone 494-7892

Also, please make the following changes:

WD5AJC -- change phone number to 491-1819

WD5CTQ -- correct spelling of name to Bigelow

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FROM OFFICERS

President's Message

Bob Spradling W5UBD

As you perhaps know by now, we have received the Club patches and all I can say about them is they are terrific! The three colors are strong and the workmanship is excellent. Kudos to Dick WD5CIQ for an excellent job. I just returned from an extended trip to Arizona and California, and while in Scottsdale, Arizona, attended a meeting of the Bash-Hal-NE-Ae Amateur Radio Club (WA7UGA; Barry Goldwater is K7UGA but wasn't at the meeting). I believe everyone in the club asked me about the B-VARC patch on my jacket. They were all highly complimentary and immediately launched a program to obtain their own patches and they will follow our general pattern -- red, white, and blue, with club name over an outline of the state. They even tried to buy my patch to use as a guide but it wasn't for sale! These patches cause quite a stir among outsiders, especially those from out of Texas. In California they expected me to come out with an HH in one hand and a six-gun in the other!

If you should make the drive some time, you could yak on 2 meters every foot of the way if you worked at it. I didn't but had a number of interesting QSOs.

Mark November 13th on your calendar. That is, among other events for the evening, election night, at which time a new slate of officers will

FROM OFFICERS (Cont.)

President's Message (Cont.)

be elected to guide the Club in 1981. I don't know whom the Nominating Committee will present for the new officers but I sincerely hope EVERONE will turn out to vote and will give the new officers and Board of Directors the same support we have received.

It's your Club.....Support it and use it!

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VP QSO

Dale Williams WD5AJC

The election of Club officers for 1981 will take place at the November meeting. If you would like to serve B-VARC as a Club officer or director, you need to make your intentions known and get a friend to nominate you at the November meeting.

In the last two months some members of B-VARC were involved with the Houston Ham Convention and the Mission Bend 10K Run. I wish to thank the Club members and the non-Club members who helped me with these projects.

If you have been wondering what happened to the "52 machine" the last few weeks, well, I moved to a new job location at a different part of the Galleria area. I am back in the air now but only at 90 feet. When summer-time comes to Houston next year I will be up over 300 feet high, and the building will be 25 stories tall.

I hope to see all Club members at the November meeting. Remember the elections; and also door prizes will be given away at this meeting.

73 from Dale--

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FORWARD BIAS BY Larry Levy WD5DRB

After six months activity on 2-Meter/FM, I find I enjoy the comraderie of talking with the many 'REGULARS'. While learning many things about electronics, I also have noted three questionable practices used too often by many of us same regulars.

My purpose in commenting on these poor practices is to allow each operator to review his/her own operation. If there is room for improvement, we all can benefit.

- 1) Tail ending a conversation may be a good way to keep the conversation going, but it also can delay priority transmissions from being heard. Besides, two (or more) HAMS have successfully used this DX technique to time-out a machine.
- 2) Vacation plans should never be explicitly stated on the air. While it may be nice to boast to friends, with the many scanners and other receivers now available, individuals with dishonest designs and a current CALLBOOK can clean a HAM out. Special or extra insurance may be a cheap investment, but if you can hold your tongue until you get back, you minimize the risk of losing personal equipment/belongings and you can ~~here~~ boast to everyone what fun you had.

FORWARD BIAS (Cont.)

3) Priority traffic: This relates to tail ending conversations as well. A personal experience perhaps relates the poor practice best. It also has prompted me to write this commentary. On a Sunday afternoon I arranged to drive to another HAM's home. He was to talk me in on 146.52 direct. Enroute, I listened to .52 and heard two of our club members talking. I also heard the HAM I was looking for ID three separate times. He made his IDs at existing breaks in the conversation using only his call sign.

The first two times he received no acknowledgement. The third try brought recognition in the form of a comment along the lines of: "Just a minute, we're almost done and you can then use this frequency." Two or three minutes later the conversation did end, both stations signing.

On the outside, it was only a five minute delay, but a very rude delay.

WHAT IF: The breaker wished to report a car accident--his own? Five LCNG minutes is more than enough for shock to set in, preventing an emergency from being reported.

Fortunately, this time no harm was done. Next time, who knows? The courteous way to acknowledge a breaker is to immediately address him/her and ask what or why for the break. In my case, it would have been to meet up and change frequencies. The next time may be someone asking for their life. What if it were you???

ADVERTISEMENT

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TS-

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SWAN 102BXA - \$999.

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STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transmitter Hunt

The regular monthly hidden transmitter hunt was held on October 11, 1980 at 1:00 P. M.

This time the hidden transmitter was portable and located in a large stand of trees in Southwestern Fort Bend County. It was operating 150-200 yards from where hunter vehicles had to stop. The underbrush was very thick and the rabbit could not be seen from more than 30 feet away, if that far!

Thank you Dave WB5MSX for a very challenging hunt.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont.)

Transmitter Hunt (Cont.)

Gary N5ANF, Phil WB5SUR, and Al N5ATC were the first team to find the transmitter, with a time of 48 minutes.

Dick WB5SRN and Henry N5HF were second, with Mike KA5BYF and his XYL being the third team to flush the rabbit.

A 4-element Cushcraft 2-meter yagi was donated by Madison Electronic Supply as first prize in this hunt.

MANY THANKS TO MADISON ELECTRONICS FOR SUPPORTING OUR CLUB!

The next hunt will be on November 15, 1980. Meet at the Park and Ride lot at the intersection of Hgwys. 59 and 762 (Richmond exit on Hgwy. 59). Kickoff time will be 1:00 P.M., so come early enough to get set up and registered. Tell all your friends and help us get a good turnout for the Club.

Gary N5ANF fone 981-7742

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Picnic

It has been decided there will not be a Club picnic in November as previously planned. I will reschedule the picnic for some time in 1981.

Dale WD5AJC

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ARRL Affiliation

The following letter has been received from the Club and Training Department of ARRL in connection with our application for affiliation:

"Our Membership Section has completed the checking of your member list and we are at once referring your application for affiliation to Raymond B. Wangler, W5EDZ, 642 Beryl Dr., San Antonio, TX 78213, your West Gulf Division Director, for proper endorsement. Once this received, your application will be referred to the members of the ARRL Executive Committee. If approved, a charter will be sent to your Club without cost.

"We thank you for your cooperation and wish your club the best of success. 73."

The above indicates our application is receiving prompt handling and that we can expect to receive our charter in due course -- which could be right away or in a couple of months, since the ARRL Executive Committee meets only quarterly. Maybe they handle these routine items by mail. We'll see!

Stu WB5IGG

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NEXT CLUB MEETING

When - November 13, 1980, 7:30 P. M.

Where - Missouri City Fire Station, FM2234 (Blue Ridge Road).

Speaker - Dr. John Freeman, Professor of Space Physics and Astronomy and Master of Lovett College at Rice University, Director of the Space Solar Power Program, and Editor of SPACE SOLAR POWER REVIEW. He will talk about the rectenna and the possibility of its installation offshore; also his use of the photo klystron.

Election of officers and directors to guide the Club in 1981 will be the main order of business.

This meeting promises to be one of the most interesting of the year.

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COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934

As most of us probably realize, this Act is sadly out of step with the state of the art and the times and the F.C.C. is not very well equipped under the Act to do the kind of regulatory job that the Congress probably intended when this Act was passed.

And what many of us probably don't know is that Senate bill # S-2827 originally introduced by Senator Barry Goldwater K7UGA, a complete redo of the 1934 Act, is before the U. S. Senate now. According to Bob Cox AB5X, it contains a number of improvements of particular interest to ham operators, such as, 10-year amateur license terms, no amateur license fees, the requirement that manufacturers include in their home entertainment products suitable and effective filtering devices to shield those products from RFI, enforcement authority to the FCC considerably broader and more effective than that which they now have under the 1934 Act, etc.

Bob has received written assurance from his U. S. representative, Bill Archer, that such a bill will receive his support when it reaches the House, but states that probably won't be until the first session of the new Congress. A letter to your representative should be sent to him at the U. S. House of Representative, Washington DC 20515.

If you'd like to make your feelings on the Senate bill known, pass them on to the Hon. Ernest F. Hollings, Chairman, Subcommittee on Communications, The U. S. Senate, Washington DC 20510.

B - S - S MART

The B-VARC BULLETIN will be glad to run in this department a listing of any items you'd like to buy, sell, or swap. Such a listing should be sent to the editor in writing and it will be run in the first issue possible. If you mail or deliver it by the 3rd Thursday prior to the regular monthly meeting, it will be run in the issue of the BULLETIN mailed out just prior to that meeting.

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IN NEED OF - One final amplifier tube, # 572B, for Heath SB200.  
Mike Davidson KA5BYF, fone 668-8408 nights.

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FOR SALE - Scotch video cassette # L-750, containing first episode of CENTENNIAL.  
Larry Levy WD5DRB fone 437-7826 nights.

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FOR SALE - 10-15-20 M. Cushcraft ATB34 antenna with separate driven element on 10 M., making total of 4 elements. Partly assembled; can be quickly completed and put into air.  
- Shure 444 microphone; currently wired for Yaesu 101; can be rewired as needed.  
Dick Bigelow WD5CTQ fones:home 463-8611,  
work 490-1161.

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FOR SALE - Dentron tuner. Handles single wire and coax txmsn line and power output to antenna up to 300 watts.  
- Micronta 3-range power/SWR meter, 1-1000 watts.  
- Standard C146 2M FM HT. 5 channels with xtals, nicad battery pack, mobile adapter, separate external mic and fixed station/charger with external antenna S0239 connector.  
Stu Lamkin WB5IGG, fone 777-3345.

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MISCELLANIE --- Inclosed in this mailing, courtesy of Dick WB5SRN are (1) U. S. map showing ham radio zones, and (2) a statement of position which you can shove at your XYL when she gets after you about the housekeeping in your shack ----and then duck as you run!!



## **THIS IS AN AMATEUR RADIO STATION.**

**IT IS LICENSED BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION. I HAD TO LEARN THE MORSE CODE AND A LOT OF ELECTRONIC THEORY TO BE ABLE TO OPERATE IT LEGALLY. IN THIS STATION, IT IS POSSIBLE TO TRANSMIT AND RECEIVE SIGNALS ALL OVER OUR EARTH. I CAN HANDLE EMERGENCY AND PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS AND CREATE GOOD WILL AND DIPLOMACY. I DID A LOT TO DO A LOT, SO DON'T GIVE ME ANY STATIC ABOUT HOW MESSY THIS PLACE IS!**

