

the B-VARC BULLETIN

of

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

Vol. 3, No.6

December 1980

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W O W !

Look above again at the list of associate editors of this issue of the BULLETIN -- an all-time high in the number of! Thanks to them for making a little easier the work of Ye Olde Editor in coming up with material for publication, and far more important, for making the BULLETIN a lot more informative and interesting to the total membership than it ever could be through the efforts of just one or two.

CALENDAR

Brazos Valley Public Service Net -- Mondays, 9 P.M. local, 147.60/00
Ft. Bend County CD Net -- Tuesdays, 9 P.M. local, 146.16/76
Houston-Harris County CD Net -- Wednesdays, 7:30 P.M. local, 146.28/88
West Houston RACES Net -- Sundays, 8 P.M. local, 146.07/67
B-VARC December membership meeting -- 7 P.M. local, Mo. City Firehouse
ARRL National Convention 1983 -- Dates and places in Houston to be announced later

DOIN' IT RIGHT!

Sorry, Gang, but this has to be said. Our club meetings sound like the low end of 20 meter phone during a contest. Everybody has something to say - not to the club in general, but to the person sitting next to them, in front or behind. Our club meetings are going on in a din, that, if we want to continue functioning as a working organization, simply has to stop!

We're all guilty, me, you, - everybody. The point is that if everyone is quiet and observant of basic orderly procedure, three things will happen. One, we'll get more done, two, we'll take less time doing it, and three, we'll have more time to visit after club business is concluded. We should all do this out of simple self respect - we don't like to hear it on the air, so let's not do it in person!

The club has lots happening - public service, TX hunts, patches, hats, a new repeater, CD blues, nets, novice classes, et.al. No one expects you or me to take part in any or all of them. But, if any of them do interest you, by all means get active and do it! Head a committee, run for office, join a committee or don't - the success of your participation and mine, as well as the general health of the club is at stake. We have come a long way since just this time last year and I for one would like to see it continue. Let's do it right - together!

73, Dick WD5CTQ

DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING --- IMPORTANT!

Please note that the December meeting will begin at 7 P. M. instead of the usual time. It will be a business meeting only with the following two major items on the agenda:

1. Amendment of By-Laws, and
2. Election of officers and directors for 1981 (carried over from November meeting).

Wade Eilers WN5TEN, Chairman of the Nominating Committee reported at the November meeting that the Committee had been unable to complete a slate of nominees for officers, each of whom held a General Class or higher license issued by the Federal Communications Commission. He stated the Committee would continue its efforts to complete a slate but believed they would be unsuccessful unless this requirement was lowered. He also stated that he had made a written recommendation under the By-Laws that Article II, Section A which states:

"The officers of the Club shall be: President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer; each of whom must be a member of the Club and hold a General Class or higher license from the Federal Communications Commission."

be amended to state as follows:

"The officers of the Club shall be: President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer; each of whom must be a member of the Club and hold a Technician Class or higher license from the Federal Communications Commission, except that the President must hold a General Class or higher license."

Wade stated that it was the opinion of the Committee that, with this change, the Club would have available the services as officers of very able and willing Club members which it does not have under the provision of this Section as now in effect.

It was discovered that Article V, Section A, setting the number of Club members constituting a quorum for the transaction of matters binding the Club, was worded incorrectly in the By-Laws adopted by the Club at the September meeting, and that such wording did not reflect the intent to set a reasonable and practicable quorum. Stu Lamkin WB5IGG, Chairman of the By-Laws Committee has made a written recommendation under the By-Laws that this Section which states:

"A quorum shall be deemed to be more than half (50% + 1 or more) of Club members who are present at a membership meeting either in person or by proxy."

be amended to state as follows:

DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING (Cont.)

"A quorum shall be deemed to be 15 or 25% of the Club's total membership, whichever is greater".

This will be one of the most important meetings of the Club and each member is urged to make a special effort to be present. It is hoped the meeting can start promptly at 7 P.M., and that it can adjourn in thirty to forty-five minutes.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is the last time I will be writing to you as president of BVARC. On the whole I believe we had a fairly successful year. A number of new things were introduced which were well received by the membership and some things remain to be completed or finalized. I hope to have the privilege of carrying these to a successful conclusion if authorized to do so by the new president.

During the year I have tried to guide the Club in the direction I thought was best for the membership. This has not always been 100% agreeable to all members but a president runs an organization not a popularity contest. Fortunately, to my knowledge, we have had no serious disputes. I can say that everyone attending meetings has been fully informed of what is going on, witness the gripes about long meetings, and nothing has been done without the full knowledge of the membership.

I am very disappointed about one thing, however. An organization as healthy as BVARC should have a high level of participation in all activities of the Club. This is not the case and with an all time high of 50 members everything still seems to be done by a handful of people. I was appalled that the nominating committee could not come up with a slate when over 60% of the membership qualifies to hold office under the present Bylaws and the Bylaws have to be changed in order to elect officers and a Board. This is difficult to believe.

I strongly urge ALL members to take another look at the Club and ask themselves, "Where can I fit in and what can I do to help make this Club the best in the Houston area?". I think the Club is well on it's way and nothing but indifference can stop it.

Good luck es 73s,

Bob Spradling - W5UBD

VP QSO

The time is getting near for me to step down as Vice-President of B-VARC, and I hope Club members will support the new officers and directors for the year 1981.

VP QSO (Cont.)

The Club has gained new activities in 1980, such as, helping with the Houston Ham Convention and the Mission Bend 10K Run. The new Club repeater still needs manpower and support so that this goal can be reached in 1981. The monthly transmitter hunt has been quite successful this year, and with Madison Electronics and Gateway Electronics helping with the prizes, this activity should be a lot of fun and materially rewarding to skillful hunters in 1981.

Since this is the last BULLETIN before Christmas, I want to wish everyone a very happy Holiday season and a happy and prosperous New Year coming up.

73, Dale WD5AJC

GEE WHIZ -- COPS By Larry Levy WD5DRB

Oh Boy!! Your XYL finally relented and now you are the proud owner of a 2-Meter do everything GEE WHIZ rig, complete with AM--FM--SSB--AUTO-PATCH--TONES--MEMORIZER--SCANNER--COFFEE-MAKER. Now it is a perfect fit where your ashtray use to be. So you hook it up and your first contact on 146.52 direct was with a guy in Amarillo. You can't wait to show/sound off to the other members of the club.

On the way to the club meeting, as you drive down the highway, right in front of you is a large semi-trailer filled with dirt that jack-knives. As you reach for the microphone on your GEE WHIZ button & whistle rig, you realize you can't dial the local police because you don't know the phone number. So----you turn around looking for a pay phone -- all the while trying to raise a HAM with a telephone handy.

Perhaps a lesson can be taken from the Boy Scouts...."BE PREPARED". It is a simple matter to take the list of area police and fire departments from the front of a phone book. This then can be taped to the visor in your car for ready access. Another useful list is the set of speed numbers used on the 147.69/09 machine.

Public service is one aspect of Amateur Radio operation. With some preparation, YOU can serve the public.

Emergency Speed Dialing -- In the above article, Larry refers to emergency dialing on the 69/09 machine. At the top of page 6 is attached a list of these speed dial codes, supplied by Richard N5KV for distribution with this issue of the BULLETIN. Following that list is a schedule of speed dial emergency codes, supplied by Dick WB5SRN, available on the sub-band 144.69/145.29 repeater in Pasadena. We understand there^{are} available on the 63/03 machine in Conroe another group of speed dial codes; these we hope to include in an upcoming issue of the BULLETIN. --Ed.

EMERGENCY SPEED DIAL CODES

The Houston ECHO Society - 147.69/.09 - Autopatch Speed Dial Codes

<u>POLICE Departments</u>	<u>SHERIFFS Offices</u>	<u>FIRE Departments</u>
*20 Houston PD	*30 Galveston County SO	*33 Alief Volunteer FD
*21 Bellaire PD	*31 Harris County SO	*39 Houston FD
*22 Hedwis Village PD	*32 Fort Bend County SO	*40 Bellaire FD
*23 Spring Valley PD	-----	*41 Pearland FD
*24 Pasadena PD	*34 Houston Emergency	*42 Northwest Volunteer FD
*25 South Houston FD	Ambulance	*43 Pasadena FD
*26 W University Pl PD	*35 Poison Center	*44 South Houston FD
*27 Village(s) PD	*36 Houston/Harris Co.	*45 W University Pl FD
-----	Civil Defense	*46 Harris County
*28 Texas DPS	*37 Pasadena CD	Emergency Coordinator
*29 Houston Tfc Siss	*38 Houston City Subd.	*49 ECHO Society Information

When calling these agencies, please remember to tell them that A) you are talking on a mobile radio telephone, and B) they cannot call you back, but do give them your name and home telephone number. They also do not need your call sign- it has no meaning to them.

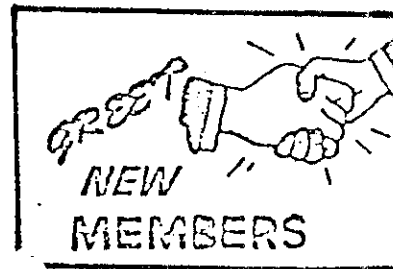
Pasadena Repeater - 144.69/145.29 - Autopatch Speed Dial Codes

*20 Pasadena PD	*36 Dept. Public Safety
*21 Pasadena FD	*37 Coast Guard rescue
*22 Pasadena ambulance	*38 Red Cross emergency
*23 Pasadena CD & City Hall	*39 Poison Control
*24 Community Affairs & CD	* Houston Weather NOAA
*25 Houston PD	*41 Houston CD
* 26 Houston FD	*42 Houston Lighting & Power
*28 Life Flite (requires doctor or police OK)	*43 Insect / Gas
*29 South Houston PD	*44 Jim WA5LQR, Communications Radio Officer, Pasadena CD
*31 Deer Park PD	*45 John N5ASH, Asst. Comm. Radio Officer, Pasadena CD
*32 Deer Park FD	*46 S. Driscoll WB5RYB, Asst. Comm. Radio Officer, Pasadena CD
*33 La Porte PD	*47 O. E. Allen K5OKG
*34 Harris County sheriff	
*35 Galveston County sheriff	

Both of these repeaters require *89 to bring up the patch.

ROSTER

Y'all welcome the following new members who joined B-VARC at the November meeting. Please add them to your roster to keep it up to date:



J. V. Leeds W5VXD, 10807 Atwell, Houston 77096, fone 727-4495
Lee Murrah WD5CID, Rte. 2, Box 39-K, Richmond 77469, fone 1-232-7245

Googy-good for him but poor us, please change the address and phone number of Jim Shaw WA6PXU to read: 10532 Esquire Place, Cupertino CA 95014, fone 408-730-5766. We wish him God-speed in his new assignment and welcome back to his old QTH location.

MURPHY'S LAWS, VARIATIONS ON -- from the collection of
Alan Shapiro N5BSW

Anything that can go wrong will go wrong:

Leakproof seals -- will
Interchangable parts -- won't
Self-starters -- won't

No matter how long or hard you shop for an item, after you've bought it you find it cheaper somewhere else.

If it jams, force it; if it breaks, you needed another one anyway.

A\$100 transistor will protect a 10¢ fuse by blowing first.

Anything you try to fix will take longer and cost more that you thought.

In order to get a loan you must first prove that you don't need it.

If everything seems to be going well, you obviously don't know what the h___ is going on.

There's never enough time to do a job right--but always enough time to do it over.

If you fool around with a project fōr very long, you'll screw it up.

Everybody should believe in something--I believe I'll have another drink!

TRANSMITTER HUNT COMMITTEE REPORT

A new dimension was added to the hidden transmitter hunt at the November 13 event -- nobody found the rabbit!!

This time the rabbit, Gary N5ANF and Phil WB5SUR, used a new technic for which the hunters were apparently totally unprepared in the way of equipment and hunting procedure, and reported that two hunters were

TRANSMITTER HUNT COMMITTEE REPORT (Cont.)

within 10 feet -- that's right, only 10 feet! -- of the rabbit at one time and still didn't smell it!

Whether the rabbit will use the same procedure at the next hunt on January 10 remains to be seen. Which should be a challenge to you hunters who think you've developed a successful rabbit-finding technic.

Advertisement

MADISON ELECTRONIC SUPPLY

1508 McKinney, Houston TX 77010 fone 658-0268

H O T S P E C I A L S

KENWOOD TS180S - \$399. TS520SE - \$549. R1000 - \$449.
TR9000 - \$429.

ICOM IC251A - \$599. IC255A - \$319.

SWAN 102BXA - \$999.

All line accessories available

kenwood service manuals available

ARRL COMMITTEE REPORT -- Stu Lamkin WB5IGG, Chairman

The following radiotelegram was received November 26 through the Texas Traffic Net:

"CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
ON YOUR RECENT AFFILIATION WITH ARRL 73

Roger Coday N5NF
SCM and Assisant Director

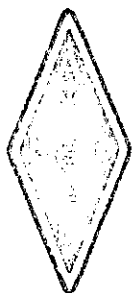
Two days prior to receipt of this telegram a letter was received from ARRL Headquarters which notified us officially of our affiliation. A copy of this letter is reproduced on page 9, and on page 10 is a copy of ARRL form CT-7 BENEFITS AVAILABLE THROUGH ARRL CLUB AFFILIATION.

Please note particularly item 3 on the BENEFITS form. Until we can promulgate written procedure to make this benefit available to us, please call Ye Olde Editor at 777-3345 for a suggested interim method.

SAFETY

Harold KA5HZP thinks -- and we agree with him -- that we hams can't be too safety conscious, and he suggests that we run a copy of the leaflet that Houston Lighting & Power recently inclosed with their bill.

(Continued on page 11)



THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC.

HEADQUARTERS SOCIETY OF THE INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO UNION

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT, U. S. A. 06111

HARRY J. DANNALS
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VICTOR C. CLARK
W4KFC, FIRST VICE PRES.

NOEL B. EATON
VE3CJ, VICE PRES.

CARL L. SMITH
W7BWJ, VICE PRES.

JOHN HUNTOON
W1RW, TREASURER

RICHARD L. BALDWIN
W1RU, SEC. & GEN. MGR.

November 21, 1980

203-666-1541

QST

OFFICIAL JOURNAL

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
c/o S. L. Lamkin, WB5IGG, Chairman
7401 Heilig
Houston, TX 77074

Dear S.L.:

It gives me great pleasure to advise you that the League's Executive Committee has just approved your club's application for affiliation with the ARRL. You are hereby declared a duly affiliated society.

To symbolize this important event, we have prepared a handsome, hand-lettered charter. We suggest you hold a "Charter Party" to celebrate. If you do, your elected section communications manager and division director (addresses on page 8 of any QST) would appreciate receiving an invitation. While these dedicated volunteers must perform their League obligations in their spare time, and prior commitments or great distance may preclude their attendance, we know they would like to hear from your club. Other obligations permitting, they or one of their representatives may be able to attend.

You will be receiving all our regular and special mailings to our affiliated clubs, and are hereby eligible for all benefits of affiliation, as briefly described in the enclosure. We hope that you will make full use of our many services.

In return, we ask that you keep your elected officials and Hq. advised of your club's activities. Please be sure to send copies of any club news or bulletins to your SCM, director, and Hq. We are all vitally interested in your progress.

Again, congratulations and welcome. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with your club. With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

Stephen C. Place, WB1EYI
Manager, Club and Training Dept.

SCP:va
Enc.
CT-29
(580)

THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT, U. S. A. 06111

BENEFITS AVAILABLE THROUGH ARRL CLUB AFFILIATION

1. Affiliated clubs can receive lists of ARRL full members in the club area once each year for membership solicitation purposes, or ARRL associate members for class solicitation.
2. Special bulletins from ARRL to affiliated clubs are mailed at frequent intervals containing everything we can find that is of interest to the typical ham group. Examples: Ideas for contests, programs and other club activities, new training aids available through your headquarters, discussion of Field Day, class ideas, what other clubs are doing.
3. The affiliated organization retains \$1.50 of each membership entry sent to ARRL by an officer; it helps the treasury.
4. Occasional publicity drafts are mailed out to affiliates only. Examples are PR releases on National Radio Week/Field Day. A complete publicity kit is available so affiliates may make their own drafts, the best kind as far as local papers are concerned.
5. Affiliated groups are the first called upon to sponsor Official League conventions.
6. Affiliation requires approval of elected directors, who can usually be prevailed upon to visit at meetings. Affiliated clubs also get first chance on visits from headquarters staffers who happen to be traveling in the area.
7. National distinction and recognition is afforded by displaying the ARRL emblem on organizational posters, stationery, etc.
8. Most training aids material is available first to affiliates. Visual aids include sound films and slide sets. Taped programs and quizzes are also available. Most training aids require booking at least a month in advance.
9. Only affiliated clubs are eligible for participation in the gavel competitions in the DX Contest, the November Sweepstakes and the V.H.F. Sweepstakes.
10. Affiliated clubs are eligible to receive special achievement awards for holding license classes, Amateur Radio promotion, etc.
11. Affiliated clubs can donate the complete set of ARRL publications to local library at approximately one half cost. The 3 Tommy Rockford high school level books on Amateur Radio are available to affiliated clubs for \$1.00 postage, to be sent to libraries.

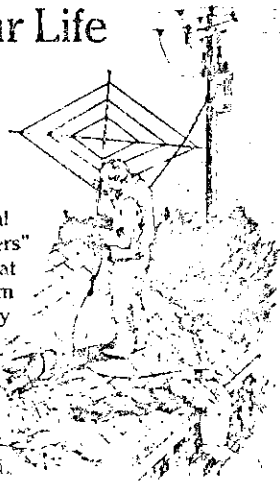
The cost to the club: zero! Simply return an annual report to ARRL and keep up the 51% ARRL member requirement. Write the Club and Training Department of the ARRL for further details on any of these benefits.

SAFETY (Cont.)

After all, electricity isn't proud -- it would just as soon kill a ham as a CBer!

**Don't Put Your Life
On The Line**

Here are a few electrical safety rules we call "life savers" because that's exactly what they are. Please read them carefully and ask other family members to read them, too. We want you to live safely while enjoying the many services of this versatile form of energy.



- Take care when installing CB and TV antennas. They are one of the major causes of home electrocution. Keep at least 1-1/2 times the distance between your antenna and any power lines. Overhead lines like those running along the rear of most homes in our service area carry 12,000 volts or more and they are not insulated. If you have any doubt about your ability to install an antenna safely, call a professional contractor to do the job for you.

- For safety's sake we've placed our lines out of reach, high off the ground or underground. But some trees do grow near overhead lines. Alert your children to look carefully for electric lines before they start to climb and do the same yourself when tree trimming.
- When using a metal ladder, watch where you place it. Never position it near electric wires. Metal ladders are excellent conductors of electricity.
- Some home electric supply lines are underground. The large steel transformer boxes serving these lines at intervals throughout the neighborhood are safe when closed and locked. If one is open or damaged, stay clear, report it immediately to the Light Company and warn others to keep away until we can get there.
- Keep electric appliances in good condition. If you get a slight shock when handling any appliance or tool, have a qualified serviceman repair it before using it again.
- Unplug all electrical appliances before repairing, oiling, cleaning or adjusting them.
- Don't touch a person who is electrically shocked until you have turned off the current or disconnected the plug.

**The Light
Company**
Houston Lighting & Power

1981 DUES TIME

Please review Sections A and C of Article VI of the By-Laws. We're sure the Club Treasurer would be pleased to spread the load between the December and January meetings! Also, please be reminded that the February meeting is the last time to pay your 1981 dues in order to stay on the roster and Club mailing list.

MISCELLANIE

From the staff of the BULLETIN to all B-VARC members and their loved ones -- we wish you a fun-filled Holiday season and a most happy and prosperous year thruout 1981 ----- New member J. V. Leeds W5VXD is our January speaker and his topic will be SWR -- WHAT? WHY? SO WHAT? It promises to be a good-un ----- Please, to all contributors, let's

MISCELLANIE (Cont.)

keep your ideas, articles, suggestions, funnies, etc., flowing to Ye Olde Editor, and make a note that the mailing deadline for the January issue will be Thursday, Dec. 18.

B - S - S MARK

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 must be sent to the editor in writing and it will be run in the first issue available after receipt.

* * * * *

FOR SALE - Dentron tuner. Handles single wire and coax, and power output to antenna up to 300 watts.

Micronta 3-range power/SWR meter, 1 - 1000 watts.

Standard C-146 2-meter handy-talkie. 5 channels with xtals, ni-cad battery pack, , mobile adapter, separate external mic, telescoping $\frac{1}{4}$ -wave and rubber-duckie antennas, and fixed station/battery charger with SO-239 external antenna connector. A good 2-M. starter rig with accessories.

1980 U. S. Callbook with all 3 supplementary issues.

Stu Lamkin WB5IGG, fone 777-3345

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Tony Seccia WB2AOW in Equinunk PA includes the following when he signs off after a QSO:

Have a good laugh and a smile today to put sunshine in your life tomorrow -- and then you'll know it's all worthwhile.

4 69-6929

B222

WB5IGG