



the
B-VARC BULLETIN

of
Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Ft. Bend and Harris Counties, Texas

Vol. 6, No. 6

June 1983

Editor -- Stu Iamkin WB5IGG, 7401 Heilig, Houston TX 77074

Production -- Vic Ia Rocca K5KNP

Cathy Schneider KA5BNC

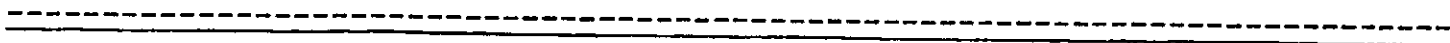
OUR PRESIDENT SAYS --

I attended an open meeting on planning for Houston Com-Vention 83 and learned that all is proceeding on schedule for our ARRL National Convention here in Houston in October. There will be almost twice as many exhibitors as last year. Remember, B-VARC is responsible for the convention hidden transmitter hunt. Anyone interested in renting some flea market tables?

Due to the resignation of our Secretary, Hal Fuglaar N5BXP, the Board of Directors, according to our By-Laws, has chosen a successor for the balance of the term. Our new Secretary is Larry Levy WD5DRB. Larry is one of the Club's Charter Members and a wearer of a green-bordered badge, and will do a super job. Congrats, Larry!

If you did not attend the last Club regular membership meeting, or the open last meeting of the Board of Directors, or have not heard of it on 2 meters, there is a strong and enthusiastic movement within the Club to put up a repeater which we can call "our own." For more details, call our repeater chairman, Bob Grady N5DQR. His phone numbers are in the Club Roster.

73, Steve Gottlieb WA5OEN



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING MAY 12, 1983.

The meeting opened at 7:30 P.M. with Steve Gottlieb, WA50EN presiding. Standing roll call was held and all visitors were introduced and given a warm welcome.

Ron Bolyard, KA5GYG, reported that Harold Parker, ND5F, would be taking over as the SSC Coordinator for the club. Ron expressed his regrets that he could not devote the time needed as SSC Coordinator, and urged everyone to give their support to Harold.

Louis House, KD5GM, reported on Field Day 1983 via 2 meters and the courtesy of the 147.600-147.000 repeater. Louis sprained his back doing something that he should not have been doing, and all present wished him a speedy recovery. Plans were progressing nicely, with equipment being committed by several people. Antennas were still being needed. Field Day 1983 will be held on the grass area behind the Missouri City Fire Station. It was requested that some canopies be donated for use. Steve, WA50EN, came to the rescue with a SALE AS for plastic canopies at one of the local surplus stores, and Lloyd Phelps, WD5HEH, was appointed as a committee of one to look into the canopies, and use his discretion on the durability of same. There was also some discussion about the possibility of a Field Day Breakfast, place and time to be announced later.

Steve, WA50EN, reported on the results of the Sharpstown Mall Display. Nineteen members and one non-member participated in the activities. There were a total of 344 messages sent broken down as follows:

169 from the Mall via 2 meters
55 from the Mall via HF
120 were sent later after the Display was over

40 states and 4 countries were involved.

Discussion followed to make this an unofficial official club project.

Bob Spradling, W5UBD, reported on the status of Mark Schneider's repeater, WB5RDK/RPT. There appears to have been some design problems with the repeater, and work is in progress to resolve them and also add some new features. Date for the repeater to return to active duty could not be ascertained as of this meeting.

Steve, WA50EN, reported that Hal Fuglaar, N5BXP, had resigned as club secretary. Hal's replacement would be decided on at the upcoming Board of Directors meeting May 19 which would be held at Steve's new apartment.

Under new business, it was announced that the annual Family Picnic would be held in the latter part of July. Full details would follow at the June Membership meeting.

With no further business to discuss, it was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 8:10 P.M. with program to follow. Your truly was unable to stay, but later heard that the program was enjoyed by all.

Lloyd Phelps, WD5HEH
Treasurer/Secretary pro-tem

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING MAY 15, 1983.

Balance as of April 15, 1983	495.10
Receipts:	
ARRL Membership renewal	25.00
Membership dues to date	6.00
Total	<u>526.10</u>
Expenses:	
Stu Lamkin (postage and newsletter)	22.71
Don Fly Decorating (table for Mall Display)	20.30
ARRL Membership renewal	23.00
Houston Com-Vention '83 (seed Money)	<u>100.00</u>
Balance as of May 15, 1983	360.09

CALENDAR

Next B-VARC Meeting--- Regular membership, Thursday, June 9, 1983.
--- Directors meeting, Thursday, June 16, 1983.
Field Day---June 25-26, 1983.
Nets---B-VARC 2M- Ft. Bend ARES, Monday 8:30 P.M. } Primary freq. 147.60/00 MHz
- Public Service, Monday 9P.M. } Secondary 146.25/85 MHz
---B-VARC 10M- Ragchew, Wednesday, 8:30 P.M. 28.700MHz.
---West Houston RACES - Sunday, 8 P.M. 146.07/67 MHz.
---Ft. Bend RACES - Tuesday, 9 P.M., 146.16/76 MHz.
---Houston Area Traffic Net --M, W, F., 6:30 P.M., 147.60/00 MHz.
---Hella Hams Fone Patches for Sick Kids, Weds. 7:30 P.M. 3.955 MHz.
Conventions-- ARRL National -Oct 6-8, 1983 in Houston

FT. BEND ARES RESPONDS

On May 15, 1983, at 1255 CDST Fort Bend County ARES was activated at the request of Harris County Civil Defense and the National Weather Service to provide visual reports on a severe storm cell that was moving rapidly toward the Richmond-Rosenberg area. The 146,25/85 repeater was used to coordinate the ARES net efforts while reports were being given to the National Weather Bureau through the 146.28/88 repeater. The reaction time to this matter was excellent with the following stations responding:

Ron Bolyard KA5GYG	Louis House KD5GM
Barry Brubaker N5FAB	Larry Levy WD5DRB
Tom Casey WA5ACF	Harold Parker ND5F
Ed Harwell W5WVX	Gary Richardson N5ANF
Doug Holley N5EUC	Doug Rowlett WB5IRI

It appears that the training and mutual cooperation of our weekly ARES nets have provided us all with the ability to respond to an emergency in a timely and professional manner that only TRAINED RADIO AMATEURS can provide.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WHO HELPED.
Tom Casey WA5ACF

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

At the May membership meeting--

Steve Yates, KA5DUU lived up to his advance billing and gave us a very interesting talk on the amazing variety of strange sounds he has been hearing on 10 meters--- some of which were undeniably radio transmissions and some of which defied any but a wild guess as to their nature and origin. He illustrated his remarks with extracts from audio tapings of these strange happenings, and we had to agree they were strange.

He followed by John Lorenz, WA9RDV, who is VU2JRL. John is a medical student in India and from what he said about living and hamming in India, made us realized how fortunate we are to live and ham in the U.S. His lovely wife, Beth, added to the program by her presence and additional items of interest about living in India.

Our thanks to Steve, John and Beth for a very fine program.

At the June membership meeting--

Our speaker will be Ray Wangler, W5EDZ, Director, ARRL West Gulf Division. Ray should have a wealth of information for us on the important matters now before the Ham Community. Mrs. Wangler, we're happy to know, also will be our guest at the

Continued on page 4.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT CONT...

meeting. Two other members of the ARRL field organization are expected to be with us also. They are Al Guy, WA5RVT, Southern Texas Emergency Coordinator, and Steve Ray, KA5KRI, newly appointed Affiliated Club Coordinator for the Southern Texas Section.

At the July membership meeting--

We'll have Don Busick, K5AAD to update us on amateur equipment, a subject of much interest to all of us. Maybe he'll have information on what next to expect from the manufacturers.

And for two future meetings--

Programs in the planning stage include Red Cross and DXing.

1983 ROSTER DISTRIBUTED

The following should have been included in last month's BULLETIN, since the 1983 Roster was mailed therewith. We did not know, however, that the Roster would be available for mailing then until too late to include this item in the BULLETIN.

We hope the layout of the Roster will be convenient, and we made it as accurate as we could (except for one mishap!). Please check the information for you therein, and if any of your information is incorrect or missing, please call Harold Parker, ND5F and give him correcting information.

Likewise, as the year goes on, if any now correct item becomes in need of a change, such as, address, phone number, license class, call, ARRL membership status, please pass such correcting or updating information to him as promptly as possible.

Until such time as it appears desirable to issue replacement pages, all correcting information and additions that come to Harold's attention will be listed in the next current issue of the BULLETIN. We hope you'll take the time to correct or update your copy of the Roster so it will always be complete.

ARRL MEMBERS-- If you haven't already done so, please be sure to send your QST label to Harold Parker, ND5F. This label is needed as part of the support for our application to be designated a Special Service Club. If you've already sent it to Ron, KA5GYG, Harold will not need another.

REMEMBER -- it's \$2.00 for B-VARC if you join or renew your ARRL membership through the Club. And you yourself save \$5.00 if you're over 64 or under 18. Call Lloyd, WD5HEH, at 498-2088 as to how to go about it.

NCS SCHEDULES FOR JUNE-JULY

2M. Pub.--	6/6	N5FAB	6/13	ND5F	6/20	WB5RDK	6/27	KA5NYI		
<u>Service.</u>	7/4	N5FAB	7/11	ND5F	7/18	WB5RDK	7/25	KA5NYI		
10 M Rag--	6/1	KA5GYG	6/8	WB5IGG	6/15	K5EST	6/22	N5HF	6/29	KA5GYG
<u>Chew</u>	7/6	WB5IGG	7/13	K5EST	7/20	N5HF	7/27	KA5GYG		

FIELD DAY 1983

by: Louis, KD5GM - Contest Chairman

B-VARC Field Day is an important event for all Club members. If you are unable to supply equipment, then please supply yourself. You may want to help set-up or operate a station or log for another operator or help take-down after the event is over - but please come and help out and have fun.

Field Day will last for 24 hours, starting at 1:00 pm Saturday, June 25th and running until 1:00 pm on Sunday, June 26th. SET-UP WILL START AT 10:00 AM ON SATURDAY, JUNE 25TH.

Every one participating will be responsible for their own chairs, food and drinks.

Rules for Field Day appear in the May, 1983 issue of QST on Page 86. If you don't receive QST Magazine, you may obtain a copy of the rules at the June 9th B-VARC Club Meeting.

We are still in need of these items:

- AC Generator, 2KW or larger
- Several strong tables to operate from
- Several 100' long AC drop cords
- Several 6' to 12' long extension cords w/multi plug-ins
- Guy rope material and tie-down stakes

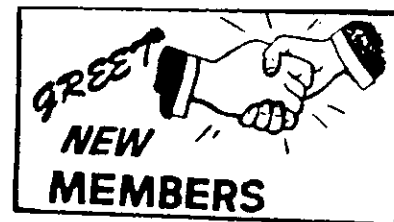
If you can help with any of these items, Please give Louis, KD5GM a call at phone 498-5639.

We are all looking forward to a great B-VARC FIELD DAY.....HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE.

NEW MEMBERS

Y'all welcome the following new member who joined at our last membership meeting. You can identify him and others who've joined this year by the red border at the bottom of thier name badges. If you haven't already done so, introduce yourself to the wearers of the red-bordered badges and make 'em glad they've joined us!!!

Jon Hill, N5BHQ - 7575 Bissonet, #46
Houston, Texas 77074
Home fone: 772-5623



ROSTER CHANGES

1. Armatta, Chris KA5PWZ - Change home fone to: 495-1170
 2. Armatta, Mike N5APC - Change home fone to: 495-1170, work: 641-2305
 3. Armatta, Pat KA5PXA - Change home fone to: 495-1170
 4. Beghtol, Carter KD5XX - Add work fone: 650-4542
 5. Gottlieb, Steve WA50EN - Change address: 4950 Sugar Grove Blvd. #1102
Stafford, Texas 77477
Change home fone to: 491-9329
 6. Harwell, Ed W5WVX - Delete work fone
 7. Richardson, Gary N5ANF - Change work fone to: 658-9638
-

SHARPSTOWN CENTER MOTHER'S DAY AFFAIR

When the Center told us we could set up right in the middle of the Mall, we expected to get more Mother's Day greeting messages. And did we ever! Almost six times as many as the previous year when we were located down at the Foley's end. And with the large turnout of Club members who participated in this public service event making it possible, it was a great success.

Three hundred forty-four messages were received by the 19 Club members in attendance, 169 of which were taken into the National Traffic System by 4 other Club members operating in a special session of the Houston Area Traffic Net. An additional 55 messages were listed with 5 non-members on HF frequencies in the NTS. Also, 120 messages, most of them local, were listed with traffic nets or delivered by phone after the Center event was shut down.

Messages went to mothers in 40 states and 4 foreign countries. Texas mothers received the most, with those in New York and Ohio running second and third.

It was a lot of work but it surely was a lot of fun and those participating in the event are already looking forward to next year!

Spacelab astronaut to carry small ham radio transceiver

BY CARLOS BYARS
Chronicle Science Writer

When astronaut Owen Garriott takes off next September on the flight of Spacelab 1, he will be carrying a pint-sized radio that has generated gallons of interest among the international amateur radio community.

For an hour a day, when he could be sleeping or relaxing, Garriott will use the small transceiver (for transmitter-receiver) to talk with hams around the world.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration approved the project only after the American Radio Relay League, Amateur Radio Satellite Corp. and other groups could assure engineers there would be no interference to the shuttle, its cargo or other crew members.

Because the Spacelab will be operating 24 hours a day, Garriott and other crew members will alternate on duty, working 12-hour schedules. Garriott will operate the ham radio during his off hours, listening with headphones so as not to disturb other crew members.

Garriott will be operating in the 2-meter amateur band, transmitting

FM signals on frequencies between 145.51 and 145.770 MHz and receiving between 144.910 and 145.470 MHz.

The 2-pound transceiver will operate on rechargeable batteries with a power of five watts. The antenna will be a piece of circuit board placed in the upper crew compartment window on the rear flight deck. Because the shuttle will be positioned with its cargo bay toward Earth, the antenna will point toward the ground.

Since the spacecraft will be about 160 miles high and orbiting the Earth in about 90 minutes, Garriott will be able to reach almost the entire Earth during each hour of operation. However, plans call for each contact to be just long enough for the ham on the ground to establish he has talked to a ham in space.

Technical requirements for the radio were developed by the amateur radio club at Johnson Space Center. Plans call for building three radios, one for testing, one for the flight and the third for a backup.

Although this will be the first chance for hams to talk with a man in space, amateur operators have been relaying their signals through special satellites of their own making for several years.

Shortcut to the Code

By Glenn Jacobs, KC7M

NOBODY could ever learn the code by studying it. I wanted a shortcut. I would build a transmitter, get on the air, and learn by doing! Why let a little thing like a license stand in my way? I tore up a nice looking cathedral radio for parts (they weren't collector's items back in 1957), built from a magazine article a "one lugger" ... and found out what 400 volts felt like. The nasty little beast was high-voltage keyed!

Years later I decided to try again. This time I would get the code first, license second, and go on the air third. I laid out \$1.98 for a cheap key with a buzzer mounted on the back. It sounded awful, but the nice man assured me that every Ham since Mister Maxim had learned on one just like it.

Now that I had all that money tied up in Amateur Radio, I could not just quit and let it all go to waste. Besides, I had invested in that horrid little squawker, and my heart was in it, too. In a single afternoon and evening, I memorized about 20 of the more common letters.

When I had been a Boy Scout, I thought like this: "Dee is a long and two shorts." No wonder I never picked it up back then. The man who sold me the key showed me a better way. Now I practiced like this: "Squawawawawk squawk squawk is dee." That's what the thing sounded like.

During that pleasant summer, my family went to a city park every day. While our little girl toddled around us on the grass, my wife sent me messages with the "Maxim Memorizer" at about one word-a-minute. It never got any faster. Then I met WA7UKB. He encouraged me and drilled me on code and theory. He taught me to think "Didididah," instead of "Squawk squawk squawk squawawawawk." He conducted my Novice exam at his kitchen table.

So here's the new Novice studying for General with headphones on, teeth gritting, listening, thinking and writing.

YOU HEAR	YOU THINK	YOU WRITE
"Didadit"	— "That's an 'are'."	R
"Dididit"	... "That's an 'ess'."	S
"Dah"	— "That's a 'tee'."	T
"Dididididit"	"Buncha dits. 'aitch', five?"	(nothing)
"Dadadadidit"	"Wait! Hold it! I don't have the last one yet!"	(nothing)

All this activity at the magnificent speed of five words-per-minute. Nobody could copy 13! Why, that would be, let's see, five letters to the word times 13 words-per-minute (wpm) makes 65 letters-a-minute! That's more than a letter-a-second! Can't be done. Well, can it? I discussed this with my wife, and we decided to find out.

Watching a sweep-second hand, I verbally stated one letter each second in plain English. She copied it neatly. I speeded up. When I got to two letters-a-second, she was still copying it. I succeeded with similar results when I copied. So, it could be done. Why did 13 wpm sound so impossibly fast? It was

too fast because I was trying to translate every letter twice! When my wife said, "Aitch," I drew the H. But when she sent "Didididit," I thought, "Didididit. That's an 'aitch'." Then I drew the H. Double the trouble, and half the speed. See?

The Big Secret

Now here is the secret wisdom imparted by the wise man who meditates unceasingly in his cave atop the high mountain. Verily, at great cost did I solve the mystery, and freely do I impart it unto you: **The real name of each letter is its "cw name."** This wonderful discovery did not get me out of practice, practice, practice. But now I didn't practice translating cw names to English names any more. After a few days, I was drawing the hieroglyphics without even thinking of their English names. By eliminating the middle step, I doubled my speed. When I thought I was good enough, I sent in my FCC Form 610, drove 500 miles ... and flunked.

I shelled out a few bucks for a 13-wpm practice tape and practiced, practiced, practiced. I mailed in another Form 610, drove the weary miles again and just b-a-r-e-l-y passed. But, when my new license came, it didn't say, "This jerk made some lucky guesses." It was as good a license as if I could copy 18 wpm in my head while driving down a bumpy road on a rainy night.

The Code Test

I understand that back in dark ages, the FCC examiner would send for five minutes or have his machine do it for him. Then he would collect your copy and start counting. If he found 65 characters in a row without a mistake, you passed.

Times have changed. When I went in, I got a sheet with ten multiple guess questions about the stuff on the code tape.

Example: What did the sender say he does for a living?

- A. Television Engineer
- B. Telephone Electrician
- C. Telegraph Electromech
- D. Telephoto Eliminator

If you copied, "E wgrk as n teleexrth elabntwa," you may have had a really terrible time guessing the right answer. If you find among your hastily scrawled copy, "I work as a telexsoto eliminatmr," however, you wouldn't have had any trouble at all. (The answer is D, a long-distance "hit man.") Eight out of ten correct was passing.

Times have changed even further. They now have a fill-in-the-blanks exam. But the code hasn't changed, and the problems of learning it haven't changed either. (The texts for the code exams given by the FCC these days are simulated QSOs, and a test consists of 10 questions asking for fill-in-the-blank answers. You must answer 7 out of 10 correctly, and this means correctly to the letter and to punctuation marks, to pass the test. — Ed.)

B-VARC PUBLIC SERVICE HONOR ROLL

Mike Armatta N5APC---B,H
 Ron Bolyard KA5GYG---G,I
 Barry Brubaker N5FAB---D,I
 Steve Gottlieb WA5OEN---D,G,I
 Dick Hagerman WB5SRN---A,B,C,E,G,I
 Ed Harwell W5WVX---G,I
 Stu Lamkin WB5IGG---A,D,G,I
 Vic LaRocca K5KNH---D,I
 Larry Levy WD5DRB---D,G,I
 Ken McAninch KA5DKS---D,I
 Mark McGrath KA5NYI---D,I
 Jay Maynard K5ZC--A,C,F
 Harold Parker ND5F---A,B,D,F,G,I
 Lloyd Phelps WD5HEH---D,G
 Bob Spradling W5UBD---C,I
 Ed Truitt KD5JC---A,G

Ken Andrews KC5GR---I
 Ethel Bolyard---I
 Tom Casey WA5ACF---I
 Henry Freedenbert N5HF---I
 Hy Gordon NC5A---H
 Irene Gordon N5AYX---H
 Bob Grady N5DQR---I
 Jon Hill N5BHQ---I
 Louis House KD5GM---I
 Joanne Morphey K5HOY---I
 Ray Morphey K5EST---I
 Cathy Schneider KA5BNC---G
 Mark Schneider WB5RDK---G
 Steve Schuster WA5RBD---I
 Todd Stolzberg K10D---I

Events:

- A. Houston Marathon, Jan.16
- B. Bayou City Fun Run, Mar. 19
- C. Houston Festival, Mar 19, 20, 26, 27
- D. Bellaire Fun Run, Mar 27
- E. Reeking Regatta, Apr. 9
- F. Galveston Rainbow Festival, Apr. 15, 16
- G. Ft. Bend March of Dimes Superwalk, Apr. 24
- H. Houston March of Dimes Walk America, Apr. 24
- I. Sharpstown Center Mother's Day Messages, Apr. 30

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If any Club member has participated in any of the events listed and you are not included above, or in a similar event which could be classified as a civic event (which would include disaster emergency communications), please inform Harold Parker, ND5F, Special Service Club Coordinator.



B - S - S MART

Use this department to list any ham-related gear you'd like to buy, sell, or swap. Give us a listing of your items by the 3rd Thursday of the month and we'll run it in the issue. If you get no results from that listing and would like to run it again, let us know.

* * * * *

FOR SALE - Heathkit SB-104! HF transceiver, with remote VFO, power supply, speaker, desk microphone, and manuals.

Lloyd Phelps WD5HEH
438-2088 home
868-5809 work

* * * * *

- FOR SALE -
1. Icom IC-701 HF transceiver, 160-10M, dual VFOs, power supply, speaker, desk microphone, and EX-1 extension terminal. Will accept receiver preamp. All manuals.
 2. Kenwood TR-9130, 2M all mode transceiver, dual VFS; 6 memories. 5 - 25 W. With mobile mount and manual.
 3. Tempo S1T, 2M synthesized HT transceiver with various desirable accessories for fixed and/or mobile operation. Remote speaker-mic, desk charger, and manual.
 4. Homebrew 10A AC power supply.

Stu Lamkin WB5IGG
777-3345

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The surest way not to fail
is to determine to succeed.

-- Sheridan

MADISON ELECTRONICS SUPPLY

1508 McKinney Houston TX 77010 Fone 658-0268

TO ALL HAMS --

We carry in stock or can order for you any item you want from any major manufacturer of ham gear, including all line accessories and Kenwood service manuals.

Call me, identify yourself and wants, and I'll quote our HOT SPECIAL prices available to you.

73, Don Busick K5AAD



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