

B-VARC BULLETIN

The Monthly Publication of the
BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Fort Bend and Harris Counties, Texas

Editor-in-Chief: Production Editor:

BRENSON ABBOTT __ N5FSS

**PUBLICATION DEADLINE:
THE THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH**



VOLUME 9 ISSUE 7

JULY 1986

YOUR PRESIDENT SAYS

IT IS WITH DEEP SADNESS THAT I MUST REPORT THE PASSING OF ONE OF OUR FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS. JOHN AMORIN N5ISW (FORMERLY KA5YDH) BECAME A SILENT KEY ON JUNE 20, 1986. OUR SYMPATHY GOES OUT TO JOHN'S WIFE AND FAMILY. SEVERAL BVARC PEOPLE MADE IT TO THE DALLAS HAM-COMM IN JUNE. I THINK IT WAS THE BEST HAMFEST I HAVE BEEN TO IN A LONG TIME. I AM ANXIOUS TO SEE IF THE HOUSTON AFFAIR WILL TURN OUT AS GOOD. I ALSO HAVE BOBBY WEBB WB5B LINED UP TO GIVE US A PROGRAM ON THE NEW 911 EMERGENCY SYSTEM. THEN FOR THE AUGUST MEETING, RON STAGNO FROM THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICE WILL GIVE US A PROGRAM ON HURRICANES. ABOUT A DOZEN BVARC FOLKS CAME TO TEXAS TUMBLEWEED ON JUNE 21 FOR SOME FOOD AND GOOD MUSIC. WE WILL HAVE TO DO THAT AGAIN BECAUSE I WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND THAT ONE. ALSO IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE ANOTHER PUBLIC SERVICE HONOR ROLL IN THE NEWSLETTER, LET ME KNOW ABOUT THE EVENTS YOU HAVE PARTICIPATED IN. LET ME KNOW AT THE JULY CLUB MEETING AND WE WILL TRY TO PUBLISH IT NEXT MONTH. SEE YOU AT THE MEETING.

73 STEVE WA5G

BVARC MEETINGS

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

DATE: Second Thursday
TIME: 7:00 PM Eyeball
7:30 PM Meeting & Program
PLACE: Missouri City Courthouse,
located one mile south of
US 90-A on FM 2234

BOARD MEETINGS

DATE: First Thursday
TIME: 7:30 PM
PLACE: Lobby of Vic,
K5KNH's office
building
(New location to be
announced later)

BVARC NETS

Public Service Net

DATE: Mondays
TIME: 9:00 PM Local
PLACE: 145.47/144.87

Ft. Bend Cty. Emer. Net

DATE: Mondays
TIME: 8:30 PM Local
PLACE: 145.25/144.65

Slow Speed CW Net

DATE: Wednesdays
TIME: 7:45 PM Local
PLACE: 3.740

Ragchew Net

DATE: Wednesdays
TIME: 8:30 PM Local
PLACE: 3.960

BVARC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT Steve Schuster, WA5G
VICE PRESIDENT Joe Ross, KA5GTU
SECRETARY Vance Peterson, N5FLQ
TREASURER George Jolly, ND5E
DIRECTOR - 3 year Clint Gilliland, N5FNA
DIRECTOR - 2 year Jim Arnold, W5RNK
DIRECTOR - 1 year Carter Beghtol, KD5XX
DIRECTOR - Past President Harold Parker, ND5F

Treasurer's Report as of June 15, 1986
Submitted by George W. Jolly, ND5E

Balance as of May 27, 1986
1,676.79

Receipts:

Membership - 1986 dues received	6.00
Wade Eilers - Novice Class Books	32.00

Total Receipts:	38.00
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Expenses:

WA5G - Bulletin Postage	26.84
Larry Levy - P.O.Box Fee	7.00

Total Expenses:	33.84
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Balance as of June 15, 1986	1,680.95
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Door Prizes

Madison Electronic Supply has generously donated the door prizes which we will be giving away at the next two meetings. Be There!

Fund Spending

Although our bank balance seems high for BVARC, in fact it is only somewhat above what we need to stay solvent. Really large expenses are way out of reach for now, but we've proven we can get the job done once we decide to.

There are some jobs we have to tackle in the months and years ahead. Basically we need to ensure that Amateur Radio continues to grow. BVARC might set some new long-range goals to further Amateur Radio. Here are just a few ideas to get your thinking started.

If we find someone to donate the space we could furnish and equip a clubhouse and club station for the public to visit.

We could purchase paid advertising for our licensing classes, examination sessions and other activities.

We could donate books to local schools.

We can sponsor Amateur Radio clubs in local schools. This is a truly promising approach which may eventually become the main doorway to Amateur Radio for the general public. We'll need some funds or donated equipment to make it go, but more important we'll need dedicated people to work with the faculty and kids to help them get started and have fun. Sure, it will cost some of our time, but who hasn't got time for kids anyway? Think of the rewards when these kids get licensed and make that first contact!

Think about it, the opportunities are endless!

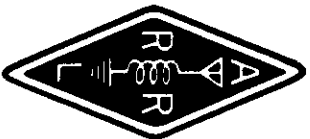
Fund Raising

Last year BVARC held a raffle at the Houston Ham-Convention and raised a net sum of \$ 740.77. It took a lot of hard work from a lot of BVARC members to sell the tickets. It also took a loan from Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG, because the BVARC balance was too low to purchase the prize, a Kenwood TS-430.

This year our balance is not so low. We could easily purchase a prize without a member providing seed money. If we do, it will mean mobilizing to sell tickets again! On the other hand, we may not need the income as much as we did last year.

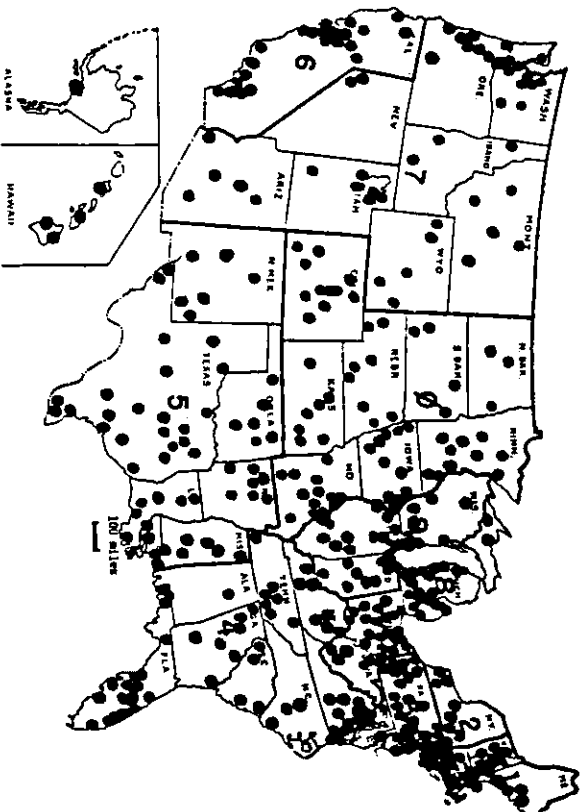
Give it some thought and let your board members know how you feel about doing it again.

73, ND5E



**American Radio Relay League
 Volunteer Examiner Coordinator
 Newington, CT 06111**

**TEST ACTIVITY
 JANUARY 1 TO
 OCTOBER 31, 1985**



VE TEAMS working through the ARRL/VEC

ARRL VOLUNTEER EXAMINERS

Accredited 7060
 Extra 5262 (75%)
 Advanced 1798 (25%)

**YES who have served in one or more
 sessions with the ARRL/VEC since**

SESSIONS

JAN 85 - 126
 FEB 85 - 128
 MAR 85 - 154
 APR 85 - 143
 MAY 85 - 162
 JUN 85 - 193

ATTENTION

The stats on this page show the tremendous increase in availability of Amateur Radio license exams since the FCC transferred to the ham community the Volunteer Examiner Program. The B-VARC VE Team is one of the few - if not the only one - that

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED
		1	2
			BVARC
		10X HOUSTON SHOT:	CW NET
		NET 8 PM 28.688	7:45 P
			BVARC
		AMSAT NET 10 PM	SSB NE
		145.45/4.85 MHz	8:30PM
6	7	8	9
	S. TEXAS EMERGCY:		BVARC
WEST HOUSTON	8 PM 145.47/87	10X HOUSTON SHOT:	CW NET
RACES NET	FT BEND CTY ARES:	NET 8 PM 28.688	7:45 P
8:00 PM	8:30PM 145.25/65:		BVARC
146.06/66 MHz	BVARC PUBLIC SVC:	AMSAT NET 10 PM	SSB NE
	9:00PM 145.47/87:	145.45/4.85 MHz	8:30PM
13	14	15	16
	S. TEXAS EMERGCY:		BVARC
WEST HOUSTON	8 PM 145.47/87	10X HOUSTON SHOT:	CW NET
RACES NET	FT BEND CTY ARES:	NET 8 PM 28.688	7:45 P
8:00 PM	8:30PM 145.25/65:		BVARC
146.06/66 MHz	BVARC PUBLIC SVC:	AMSAT NET 10 PM	SSB NE
	9:00PM 145.47/87:	145.45/4.85 MHz	8:30PM
20	21	22	23
	S. TEXAS EMERGCY:		BVARC
WEST HOUSTON	8 PM 145.47/87	10X HOUSTON SHOT:	CW NET
RACES NET	FT BEND CTY ARES:	NET 8 PM 28.688	7:45 P
8:00 PM	8:30PM 145.25/65:		BVARC
146.06/66 MHz	BVARC PUBLIC SVC:	AMSAT NET 10 PM	SSB NE
	9:00PM 145.47/87:	145.45/4.85 MHz	8:30PM
27	28	29	30
	S. TEXAS EMERGCY:		BVARC
WEST HOUSTON	8 PM 145.47/87	10X HOUSTON SHOT:	CW NET
RACES NET	FT BEND CTY ARES:	NET 8 PM 28.688	7:45 P
8:00 PM	8:30PM 145.25/65:		BVARC
146.06/66 MHz	BVARC PUBLIC SVC:	AMSAT NET 10 PM	SSB NE
	9:00PM 145.47/87:	145.45/4.85 MHz	8:30PM

LY

ESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
: 3	: 4	: 5	:
LOW SPEED:	:	:	:
3.740 MHz: BVARC BOARD OF	:	:	BREAKFAST BUNCH :
: DIRECTORS	:	:	HOLIDAY INN :
AG CHEW : MEETING	:	:	S.W. FREEWAY & :
: 7:30 PM	:	:	WEST BELFORT :
3.960 MHz:	:	:	8:30 AM :
:	:	:	:

: 10	: 11	: 12	:
LOW SPEED:	:	:	:
3.740 MHz: BVARC GENERAL	:	:	BREAKFAST BUNCH :
: MEMBERSHIP	:	:	HOLIDAY INN :
AG CHEW : FELLOWSHIP 7 PM	:	:	S.W. FREEWAY & :
: MEETING	:	:	WEST BELFORT :
3.960 MHz: -CALL TO ORDER-	:	:	8:30 AM :
: 7:30 PM	:	:	:

: 17	: 18	: 19	:
LOW SPEED:	:	:	:
3.740 MHz:	:	:	BREAKFAST BUNCH :
:	:	:	HOLIDAY INN :
AG CHEW :	:	:	S.W. FREEWAY & :
:	:	:	WEST BELFORT :
3.960 MHz:	:	:	8:30 AM :
:	:	:	:

: 24	: 25	: 26	:
LOW SPEED:	:	:	BREAKFAST BUNCH :
3.740 MHz:	:	:	HOLIDAY INN :
:	:	:	S.W. FREEWAY & :
AG CHEW :	:	:	W. BELFORT 8:30A: :
:	:	:	:
3.960 MHz:	:	:	VE EXAMS 8:00 AM: :
:	:	:	:

: 31	:	:	:
LOW SPEED:	:	:	:
3.740 MHz:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:
AG CHEW :	:	:	:
:	:	:	:
3.960 MHz:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:

(50% of the ARRL's VEs have served in one or more sessions thus far.)

AUG 85 - 154
 SEP 85 - 154
 OCT 85 - 173

OLLIER'S exams every month in each part of the country. ¶ Each dot on the map is an exam location rather than a single VE team.

SESSIONS COMPLETED IN EACH CALL AREA - 1985

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Alask														
Crtn														
Pcfc														
DX														

ARRL/VEC PASS RATES BY TEST ELEMENT

ELEMENTS	1A	1B	1C	2	3	4A	4B	TOTAL
passed	1043	3646	1975	1240	6,393	2662	1521	18,480
given	1483	8855	3202	1406	10,041	4638	2316	31,941
pass rate	70%	41%	62%	88%	64%	57%	66%	57.86%

UPGRADES

TECHNICIAN	- 4601	(40%)
GENERAL	- 3147	(27%)
ADVANCED	- 2404	(21%)
EXTRA	- 1493	(12%)
TOTAL	11,645	(100%)

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

CANDIDATES SERVED	- 20,952
SESSIONS COMPLETED	- 1,496
CANDIDATES/SESSION	- 14

HELP

We need to call for some help in generating information for the BVARC newsletter. We would like to know what kind of information the readers would like to see in the future. We also need help from the membership in writing the articles that are to be printed. One item that I have taken initial action on is the creation of a short article each month devoted to the new amateur or to the old amateur that needs some dust blown off of his equipment or to the rest of us who just never think of the simple things that can and often do make a big difference in the quality and strength of our signals or more importantly to the safety of our electrical equipment in our shack.

Please take a few minutes of your time to jot down a few items that you would like to see in our newsletter and bring them with you to our next meeting. I would like to organize a series of short articles to be published in the newsletter about subjects that would be of interest to some of the members. We need several people to volunteer to write a one or two page article, it could be about almost anything, packet radio, antennas, feed lines, a match box, ground systems, power supplies...etc. bring your thoughts to our next meeting and lets talk about them.

If you can't make the meeting, feel free to drop your suggestions into the mail to Brenson Abbott, 12322 Plumbrook Dr., Houston, Texas 77099.

HF NETS

How long has it been since you were on the HF bands. We have two HF nets that operate with a fair degree of dependability on Wednesday nights. One net is the BVARC Slow Speed CW Net that starts at 7:45 local time on 3.740 MHz and the other is the BVARC SSB Rag-chew Net that starts at 8:30 local time on 3.960 MHz.

We have only a few members that participate in these nets and we would like to encourage more activity. Find your key and join in on the CW net or at least give us a call on SSB and chew the fat, both nets operate on Wednesday nights.

TIPS - OLD AND NEW

The ideal grounding system for a vertical grounded antenna would consist of about 120 wires, each at least $1/2$ wavelength long, extending radially from the base of the antenna and spaced equally around a circle. Such a system is the practical equivalent of perfectly conducting ground and has negligible resistance. The wires can either be laid directly on the surface of the ground or buried a few inches below the surface.

Such a system would be practical in an amateur installation in very few cases. Unfortunately, the resistance increases rapidly when the number of radials is reduced, and if at all possible at least 15 radials should be used. Experimental measurements have shown that even with this number the resistance is such as to decrease the antenna efficiency to about 50 percent at a height of $1/4$ wavelength.

It has also been found that as the number of radials is reduced the length required for optimum results with a particular number of radials also decreases; in other words, if only a small number of radials can be used there is no point in extending them out a half wavelength. With 15 radials, for example, a length of $1/8$ wavelength is sufficient. With as few as two radials the length is almost unimportant, but the efficiency of a quarter-wave antenna with such a grounding system is only about 25 percent. It is considerably lower with shorter antennas.

In general, a large number of radials, even though some or all of them have to be short, is preferable to a few long radials. The conductor size is relatively unimportant, no. 12 to no. 28 copper wire being suitable.

The radial wires may be insulated or bare and they may be buried or lie on the surface of the ground. There is almost no measurable difference between the two. A gasoline lawn edger or a spade can be used to dig a small trench to bury the radials if desired. Copper wire will usually last longer than aluminum wire and insulated wire will last longer than bare wire. If you bury the radial wires, you are less likely to wind them up with your lawn mower.

The above have been taken from the ARRL antenna book and the ARRL amateurs handbook, two good sources of information.

HAM RADIO EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Ten-Tec "Century 21" solid-state CW rig. 60 watts
input on 10-80 meters, either base or mobile,
S/N 570-3854\$225.00

Kenwood SP-100 speaker unit\$ 20.00

KLM 144-150-16C 16 element VHF Circular Polarized
Beam Antenna complete with KLM #CS-1 Circularity
Switcher, Balun and 4' PVC mast. Completely
assembled. (New - never used)\$100.00

24' Two-Section 1-1/2" Galvanized pipe mast (New)..\$ 25.00

30' Push-Up pole\$ 25.00

Contact: Harold Parker, ND5F
1915 Spillers Lane
Houston, Texas 77043
Phone - 713 - 464 - 9044 - anytime.

A YELL FROM AN XYL

She had just received her General, so she got right on the air. CQ'd and made a contact without a bit of care. The QSO was a good one, with signals loud and clear, not a sign of QRM, or QRN to interfere.

Now you'd think she'd have been delighted, with a contact such as this. The report that she was given would have filled another Ham with bliss, but she stomped out of the hamshack, and announced that she was through.

"That man said I was forty, but I'm only thirty-two!"

-ARNS-

ABOUT THE BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Organized in 1977, the club has been growing steadily. It is a gathering place for ham radio operators in Southwest Harris and Ft. Bend Counties and surrounding communities. It is a general purpose type of ham club offering a variety of activities open to all interested persons. Membership is open, not only to licensed ham operators but also to anyone interested in the hobby. In addition to regularly scheduled monthly membership meetings, the club conducts classes leading to amateur radio licenses each year and sponsors a volunteer examiner team which offers examinations in all levels of ham licenses each month.

For more detailed information about the club and any of its activities, call Stu Lamkin WB5IGG at (713) 777-3345.

Field-Day was great, we had lots of fun and made quite a few contacts. Thanks for all who were there, and I wish that the rest of you could have been there.

- PUBLIC SERVICE HONOR ROLL -

The Public Service Honor Roll is being revived, anyone who participates in a public service event will be included in the honor roll.

- MEETING ATTENDANCE -

A list of call signs attending the meeting will be included in the next issue of the news letter.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG
7401 Heilig
Houston, Tx 77074



Amateur Radio News Service

