BULLETIN

B-VARC

The Monthly Publication of the

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Fort Bend and Harris Counties, Texas

Editor-in-Chief:

Production Editor:

Brenson Abbott

Steve Schuster

N5FSS

WA5G

PUBLICATION DEADLINE:
THE THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH



VOLUME 9 ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 1986

YOUR PRESIDENT SAYS

I hope all of you enjoyed the hurricane show with Ron Stagno. We are fortunate to have had the opportunity to see his fine presentation. I want to give special thanks to Jack WN5A for getting the July issue of the newsletter printed. His special effort was mostly responsible for getting it out on time. I want to inform everyone that we will be organizing a fall picnic this year. The board decided to lower the price of the tickets to encourage better attendance. Also, for the first time, we are planning to raffle off a prize at the fall picnic. You will have to be present to win it. Stay tuned for more details. The best announcement I have made all year is that Johnnie Lyons is now my fiance'. We have set a wedding date for January 17th. We appreciate all of the congratulatory gestures. Also, Herb Nance N5GZW will be serving as the club secretary for the remainder of the year. Vance N5FLQ had to resign that post. I hope all of you had a safe and happy Labor Day weekend. 73 for now. Steve WA5G

BVARC MEETINGS					
MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS	BOARD MEETINGS				
DATE: 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	DATE: First Thursday TIME: 7:30 PM PLACE: Corporate Drive VE Exam location				
BVARC NETS	T. D. 101 D. 11				
Public Service Net	Ft. Bend Cty. Emer. Net				
DATE: Mondays TIME: 9:00 PM Local PLACE: 145.47/144.87	DATE: Mondays TIME: 8:00 PM Local PLACE: 145.25/144.65				
Slow Speed CW Net	Ragchew Net				
DATE: Suspended due to TIME: lack of participation PLACE: 3.740 MHz	DATE: Wednesdays TIME: 8:30 PM Local PLACE: 3.960 MHz				
BVARC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS					
PRESIDENT	. Steve Schuster, WA5G				
VICE PRESIDENT	. Joe Ross, KA5GTU				
SECRETARY	. Herb Nance, 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 August 23, 1986 Submitted by George W. Jolly, ND5E

Balance as of July 15,1986	1,567.92
Receipts:	
Membership - 1986 dues received Sale of four patches ARRL New Members (2) commission	4.00 10.00 10.00
Total Receipts:	24.00
Expenses:	
Postage and Expenses for Bulletin & Roster Post Oak Graphics Bank Fee: stop payment on check # 330 Stu Lamkin - accumulated expenses Activity Funding	77.50 84.68 20.00 54.42 100.00
Total Expenses:	336.60
Balance as of August 23, 1986	1,255.32
The August Door Prize winner was Jim Arnold, W5RN Electronic Supply donated the prize, a 1986 Callb Supplement.	
73, ND5E	
Our September Door Prize will be a 2 meter antenna do	onated
by Madison Electronic Supply. Come on out and join t	ile ruii

Vice President's QSO

Hello to each and everyone of you, hope you are all having a very pleasant summer. I noticed at the general membership meeting attendance has been down. I know that a lot of you have been on vacation and had other activities going.

We were very fortunate to have Mr. Ron Stagno present a special program on HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS at the BVARC meeting on August 14.

BVARC is once again sponsoring NOVICE CLASSES. The first class was August 8. If you know someone interested in getting their ticket it is not to late. Contact me for registration 690-3566. Classes are every Tuesday nite 7 PM til 9 PM. Classes will last approximately 9 weeks. Special thanks to JODY COLE, N5HQM for giving us a spot in his new ham store TEXAS COMMUNICATION CENTER for the novice class. We have had a lot of calls to put on a class in the northwest part of town.

I have noticed many BVARC members showing up as new faces on the packet radio scene. Very nice to see that. If your interested in packet but want to find out more about it before buying, join us on the voice packet net, 146.700-6 Wednesday evenings at 9 PM, visitors welcome.

Please make a special effort to join us on the BVARC PUBLIC SERVICE NET, on Monday evenings at 9 PM, for the latest red hot news and the WESTLINK REPORT from Harold ND5F.

One last note, 145.47 MERA, where most of us have hung out in the past seems to be experiencing some itermittent times of being up and down. If you are looking for BVARC nets and it is down, try 145.25. A lot of us hang out on 146.700-6 during the day.

Come visit with us on the radio and at the next meeting. We would like to hear all the latest news on your ham activities.

Best 73

Joe KA5GTU

Volunteer Examiner Honor Roll Compiled by George W. Jolly, ND5E

The following table shows who served as examiners at each exam session. Indicated are: number of applicants, number of test elements given/passed, number of license upgrades (including new licenses earned), number of Code Credit Certificates issued, and overall passing rate. When two sittings are held the statistics are combined.

-1986-	Exami	ner Tea	m(s)	Appl	Tests	Upgr	CCC	PassRate
January	WA5F	AK5G	WA5G	8	9/5	5	0	56%
February	WA5F	KN 5 A	KA5F	10	19/13	5	0	68%
March,	WA5F	NC5A	ND5F	12	22/16	8	0	7 3%
April	WA5F	AK5G	WA5G	10	14/11	8	0	79%
May	WA5F	NC5A	ND5F	7	12/9	5	0	7 5%
June	WA5F	WB1CXI	WA5YKR	6	15/10	4	0	67%
July	WA5F	WB1CXI	WN 5 A	12	18/12	7	0	67%
	ND5F	KD5XX	KC5GR					
August	WA5F	AK5G	ND5E	10	17/11	8	0	6 5%
	KD5XX	KC5GR	WN 5A		·		_	
Year to D	ate 198	86		75	126/87	50	0	69%

The 69% passing rate is computed from individual test elements taken. In terms of people actually upgrading or getting new licenses the pass rate is 68%, or two-thirds.

Although not listed here, the assistance of numerous helpers such as N5AYX, WB5IGG, and N5GZW is greatly appreciated. I wish also to thank Johnny Ray Dillard, WA5F, for his continuing support of our VE program. He has served at every session this year, and is now taking care of some of the organizational work as well. Thanks, Ray!

de ND5E AR

WE WERE THERE ON AUGUST 14th:

WA5G WB4ZJV	N5IZF KA5WHK	KC5GR KB5AKS	KA5ZTX N5JNV	WK5M WN5G	K5LTW WB5AEU
W5WVX	W5GHK	N 5 FNA	N5JBL	N 5 J EN	WB5B
KA5GYG	N 5 GHG	N5ECP	WD8LQT	N5APW	N5AFV
N5GZW	AD5Q	KA5GTU	ND5E	WB5 I GG	WA5F
AK5G	KA5QLQ	W5RNK			
Johnnie L Kim Playf			Harwell s Eggleston	Martha De Ron Stage	

Thirty-nine people signed the list at this meeting. Thanks for coming. 73 Steve WA5G

BVARC PUBLIC SERVICE HONOR ROLL

- A. BVARC Field Day at Brazos Bend State Park -- June 28th B. Mother's Day at Sharpstown Shopping Center-- May 3rd
- C. MS-150 Bike Ride from Houston to Austin -- April 19-20

Steve Schuster WA5G -A,B,C Dick Hagerman WB5SRN -A,B Roger Messick KA5NTY -C Joe Ross KA5GTU -A,B Herb Nance N5GZW -A,B George Jolly ND5E -B,C Ray Dillard WA5F -A,B,C Ron Nance N5IZF -B Steve Yales KA5DUU -A Jack VanDermark WN5A -A Laura Yates KA5SGM -A Rick Covert WD5L -A Harold Parker ND5F -B Kathy Jolly KA5WHK -B,C Ron Bolyard KA5GYG -A Steve Dunkelberger N5JBL -A Allen Mattis -B

I am sure this list is incomplete. Please let me know of any omissions or corrections. Thanks. Steve WA5G

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

- 2M BVARC Public Service Net 144.87/5.47(ALT. 144.65/5.25)
 9/1 KA5TJS 9/8 WA5OEN 9/15 WN5A 9/22 KA5DUU
 9/27 N5GZW
- 75M BVARC Rag Chew 3.960 Mhz. 9/3 - WB5IGG 9/10 - WB5IGG 9/17 - WB5IGG 9/24 - WB5IGG

NEW MEMBERS

We're happy to tell you about six new members of the B-VARC and we'll be looking forward to seeing their red bordered badges at our meetings. Introduce yourself. You "old" members look forward to giving them a B-VARC welcome.

- 1. Gordon Snell is listed in July 86 roster.
- 2. Norman Wheatley N5IXP is also listed in July 86 roster.
- 3. Richard Dunham WB5ZPE is also listed in July 86 roster.
- 4. Robert Ricketts N5JKD 12839 Ashford Chase Dr., Houston Tx. 77082-2104; His home phone # 870-8737; Work phone # 795-1385; and he is a Technician.
- 5. Lawrence Overacker KB5AKS; 3925 Frontier Dr. Sugarland, Tx. 77479; His home phone # 980-5236; His work phone # 795-2965; and he is a Novice.
- 6. Kirvin Hodges N5EAP 1919 Eastfield, Missouri City, Tx. 77459; His home & work # is 437-6106; and he is a General Class.

ROSTER CHANGES

- 1. Allen Mattis, N5AFV New work Phone # (713)951-5515.
- 2. John Playford, WD8LQT New Address; 13519 Quetzal Ln.

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:			TUESDAY :	WEI
	: : : :	: 1 : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :	2 : 10X HOUSTON SHOT: NET 8 PM 28.688 : AMSAT NET 10 PM : 145.45/4.85 MHz :	3 BVARC CW NET 7:45 1 BVARC
	WEST HOUSTON : RACES NET : 8:00 PM : 146.06/66 MHz :	8 : 8 : S. TEXAS EMERGCY: 8 PM 145.47/87 : FT BEND CTY ARES: 8:30PM 145.25/65: BVARC PUBLIC SVC: 9:00PM 145.47/87:	10X HOUSTON SHOT: NET 8 PM 28.688: AMSAT NET 10 PM:	BVARC CW NE'. 7:45 l BVARC SSB NI
	RACES NET : 8:00 PM : 146.06/66 MHz :	: 15 : S. TEXAS EMERGCY: 8 PM 145.47/87 : FT BEND CTY ARES: 8:30PM 145.25/65: BVARC PUBLIC SVC: 9:00PM 145.47/87:	NET 8 PM 28.688 : AMSAT NET 10 PM :	CW NET 7:45 I BVARC SSB NI
	WEST HOUSTON : RACES NET : 8:00 PM : 146.06/66 MHz :	: 22 : S. TEXAS EMERGCY: 8 PM 145.47/87 : FT BEND CTY ARES: 8:30PM 145.25/65: BVARC PUBLIC SVC: 9:00PM 145.47/87:	10X HOUSTON SHOT: NET 8 PM 28.688: AMSAT NET 10 PM:	BVARC CW NE' 7:45 I BVARC SSB NI
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'EMBER

'EMBER	=======================================		
ESDAY :	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
:	4 BVARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS	5 :	: 6 : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :
I : AG CHEW : : 3.960 MHz:	BVARC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP FELLOWSHIP 7 PM MEETING -CALL TO ORDER-	: : :	: 13 : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :
LOW SPEED: 3.740 MHz: 1 : AG CHEW : 3.960 MHz:	18	: : :	: 20 : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :
LOW SPEED: 3.740 MHz: 1 LAG CHEW: 3.960 MHz:	25	: :	: 27 : BREAKFAST BUNCH : : HOLIDAY INN : : S.W. FREEWAY & : : W. BELFORT 8:30A: : VE EXAMS 8:00 AM:
LOW SPEED: 3.740 MHz: AG CHEW: 3.960 MHz:		: : : : : :	: : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :

WESTLINK REPORTS DESPERATELY NEEDS DONATIONS:

Dr. Norm Chalfin, K6PGX, the administrator for the Westlink Support Fund reports that the funds in their bank account are almost depleated and they may not be able to continue with the Westlink Reports much longer.

They have three outstanding telephone bills totaling \$560.00 which is owed to Pacific Telephone Company, AT&T and MCI. These lines provide the source for the incoming information adn the Reports cannot exist withour them.

The Westlink Reports needs donations for any amount from all of us to continue providing their services on a week-to-week basis. If these necessary funds are not received within the next few weeks, the phone lines will surely be disconnected and there will be no more Westlink Reports.

Its up to you who listen and enjoy the weekly Westlink Reports to send your donations as soon as possible or they will stop:

Please send a few bucks to Dr. Norm Chalfin, K6PGX
P.O. Box 463
Pasadena, California 91102

The hams who produce these reports work hard without any compensation for their services and our contributions are used strictly to pay their telephone expenses. Your donations will be greatly appreciated!

From Harold, ND5F

VOLUNTEER EXAMINER SESSION SCHEDULES

Following are	the Amateur	Radio licer	ise exams	scheduled to
be offered in	this area i	n September	and Octob	er. The list-
ing information	on ia as fol	lows:		

- A. SPONSORED BY
- B. Session date
- C. Session location
- D. For specific information contact
- 1.A. BAY AREA ARC
 - B. 9/14
 - C. Pasadena Tx.
 - D. Jim Grahm K5KUZ 713-479-4430
- 2.A. BRAZOS VALLEY ARC
 - B. 9/27 & 10/25
 - C. Stafford Tx.
 - D. Stu Lamkin WB5IGG 713-777-3345

- 4.A. HOUSTON ECHO SOCIETY
- B. 9/20
- C. Houston, Tx.
- D. Gene Whitehurst WA5GZX 713-921-8946
- 5.A. HOUSTON HAM CONVENTION
 - B. 10/4
 - C. Houston, Tx.
 - D. Steve Ray KA5KRI 409-297-7494
- 3.A. GOLDEN TRIANGLE EXAM. COMM. 6.A. SAM HOUSTON ARK
 - B. 10/4
 - C. Beaumont Tx.
 - D. Rte. 4, Box 920, Orange Tx 77630

- B. 10/18
 - C. Cleveland, Tx.
 - D. Sam Neal N5AF 713-592-2257

ADVANCED CLASS EXAM QUESTIONS

- 1.) What type of emission is produced when a frequency modulated transmitter is modulated by a facsimile signal?
 - A.) F3C
- B.) A3C
- C.) F3F
- D.) A3F
- 2.) What type of emission is produced when an amplitude modulated transmitter is modulated by a television signal?
 - A.) F3F
- B.) A3F
- C.) A3C
- D.) F3C
- 3.) What type of emission is produced when a frequency modulated transmitter is modulated by a television signal?
 - A.) A3F
- B.) A3C
- C.) F3F
- D.) F3C

BE SURE YOU'RE STUDYING THE RIGHT MATERIAL! Stu Lamkin WB5IGG

The FCC revises all four amateur radio license question pools every year on a staggered schedule. Exam questions must be selected from the revised pools not later than six months after issuance by the FCC, and can be used on exams for the following twelve months.

Several times lately our Volunteer Examiner Team has been saddened when an applicant failed to pass an exam by only one or two questions, and then learned he had used an out-of-date study guide.

Be sure yours is current!! Use the table below to check yours.

License Class	Test Element	FCC Issued	Exam Changes	Good Until
Novice	(element 2)	July 1985	1/1/86	12/31/86
Tech/Gen	(element 3)	Oct. 1985	4/1/86	3/31/87
Advanced	(element 4A)	Jan. 1986	7/1/86	6/30/87
	•	Apr. 1986	10/1/86	9/30/87
Extra	(element 4B)	April 1000		

ADVANCED CLASS EXAM ANSWERS

- 1.) When a frequency modulated transmitter is modulated by a facsimile signal, the emission produced is F3C.

 The correct answer is A.
- 2.) When an amplitude modulated transmitter is modulated by a television signal, the emission produced is A3F.

 The correct answer is B.
- 3.) When a frequency modulated transmitter is modulated by a television signal, the emission produced is F3F.

 The correct answer is C.

WHAT HAS THE ARRL DONE FOR YOU LATELY?

The gentelman had been having massive problems with neighbors and the town zonning board over a combination of TVI complaints and a restrictive atnenna law. He was discussing his problems at his local radio club meeting with three prople who had been working closely with him to identify and rectify the TVI problem, and to rally support at the zoning board hearing.

"You know", he said, "I'm really disappointed. The League hasn't done a thing for me in all this."

The three people he was addressing looked at each other, then back to him, in amazement. He was complaining about lack of League support to the Division Director, the Section Manager and the Affiliated Club Coordinator. All three had attended his most recent zoning board hearing, the director and the SM had spoken on his behalf, and earlier, the SM had come to his house, along with the Section Technical Coordinator, to run tests on his equipment. But "the League" was doing nothing for him-because there hadn't been a lawyer dispatched from Newington to help argue his case.

It was then pointed out to him that we were the League-not just the three of us with him, but every League member in the room. The three of us had taken on leadership roles in the League, in part, to make sure "the League" was there to provide help locally, when needed.

Later, the gentleman said to me, "You know, I never saw the League in that light before. I'd always thought of ,the League' as the people in Newington, I've gotten a whole new perspective tonight." And he added, "I've been a ham for 30 years, a League member for the past seven. I'm sorry I didn't join sooner."

He found out what the League is doing for him. What is the League doing for you? Not much-just providing Washington representation, equipment insurance, incoming and outgoing DX QSL bureaus, technical advice, volunteer councel for legal problems, QST, Gateway, QEX, training publications, "Field Forum" and "Section Leader," plus local services from the legion of ARRL volunteers-volunteer examiner team members to members of the Board of Directors-who make it all work. And yes, there are also the 145,000+ League members whose financial contributions keep it all running.

But there are another 275,000 or so hams out there who don't belong. Much of what the ARRL does benefits all hams, whether or not they're League members. They're getting something for nothing-and you're paying part of thier share. So when nonmembers ask you, "What has the League done for us lately?" you might ask in return "What have you done for ham radio lately?".... - Rich Moseson, N2BFG, Chairman, ARRL Public Relations Advisory Committee. Reprinted from QST August 1986

A new computer application for amateur radio by Allen F. Mattis - N5AFV

While recently spending several days at home convalescing from minor surgery, I tuned accross the HF bands and found that propagation was poor, as has often been the case in recent months, so I picked up the February, 1986, issue of QST Magazine and began to read the articles. I don't usually get much out of reading QST articles because the construction projects are generally too advanced for me, and the idea of etching my own PC boards seems too messy. Because I use wire antennas for much of my HF operation, antenna articles are sometimes of interest to me, but because of my recent surgery, I was not about to climb around on the roof of my house to tinker with antennas. As I flipped through the pages of QST, an article by KC8OH about using computers for ham shack record keeping caught my eye.

My previous feeling about the use of personal computers in amateur radio was that they were principally used for CW, RTTY, and packet radio applications, and for logging contacts, particularly during contests. Neither of these applications are of interest to me at the present time, but the article by KC80H discussed an amateur radio use for the computer that I had not considered. Computer spreadsheets, originally developed for use in accounting, may be used to keep track of progress in working for awards such as DXCC and WAS.

This particular application was of interest to me because my QSL records were in a moderate state of disarray. I had moved 3 different times in the past 13 months before settling in at my present QTH. Many QSL cards had arrived during this period and were not properly recorded in my files. Also, my progress for the 5BWAS award was back at zilch after moving from Tulsa to Houston (imagine how it feels to have 49 states confirmed on 160 meters and then have to start over). So, I turned on my Atari 800XL, which had mostly been used for playing games, and dug out my seldom used Syncale spreadsheet program. After reading through the instruction manual for Syncale several times, I was ready to begin.

It took 2 afternoons to go through all of my DX QSL cards, and enter them on the computer. I now have an accurate record of how many countries I have confirmed on each band and mode. As I enter in each new DX QSL card I receive, the spreadsheet program automatically recalculates my DXCC totals for the appropriate band or mode. After getting my DX QSL cards in shape, it only took me an hour to set up a similar program for WAS.

The final result for me was that I now have an accurate system for keeping track of my progress in working for the DXCC and 5BWAS awards. An unanticipated bonus was that I found I had confirmation from an addi-

tional DX country that had somehow not been recorded in my old file system. If you have a computer that is collecting dust and a spreadsheet program that you wonder why you bought, you may want to computerize your QSL card records. Even when the HF bands are dead because of the sunspot cycle minimum, you can still find ways to enjoy amateur radio.

Thanks from the editor

I would like to take the space to thank all of you who have sent information to me to be included in the news letter. It sure makes things much easier when I have something to choose from to publish. It is very difficult to create the information from scratch, and then I never know if what I have created is of any interest to the rest of you. Thanks again for the information and I urge you and the rest of you to send more articles and ideas to me to be included in the newsletter.

A special thanks to Linda Coles (XYL/Jody - N5HQM) for her offer to help assemble the questions and answers to be used in the newsletter each month. We are still waiting for the offical list of questions from the FCC office to be sure that we are using the real thing. Also keep up the work in your novice class, we all look forward to hearing you on the air.

I have noticed a fair amount of talk between the various members of the club on the air discussing antennas. That is also one of my favorite topics of conversation and I would like to get some feedback from the members and possibly get a few articles from the members describing the different types of antennas in use and how well they work and how difficult they are to construct, etc...

Brenson Abbott - N5FSS

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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.

