

# 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 - KF5VZ      GERALD BORG - N5APW

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THE THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH



VOLUME 10 ISSUE 7

JUNE 1987

## Our President Says

As we reach the midpoint of 1987 it may be appropriate to review the first half and preview the remainder of the year.

Training has been quite successful this year. Joe Ross has conducted two highly successful Novice/Technician classes this year, with the excellent assistance of Allen Matthews, Lee Shull, and others. Of a total of 24 students, 22 have passed at least their Novice exam. A number have joined BVARC. We look forward to holding the fall class later this year.

Public Service also has gone well. We again made an excellent showing on the MS-150 bike ride. Our contact person from MS may well be a ham before next year's ride. We added a new event this year, the Houston Azalea Run. It's a small event but was a lot of fun. The Bayou City Fun Run was also a great success this year.

As I write this, Field Day has not yet occurred, but from all indications it should be a fine success.

We are making arrangements to sponsor a second Houston Ham Fest in September. This

should be a lot of fun for everyone to gather and visit in preparation for the Houston Com-Vention in October. Again this year BVARC is proud to be a sponsor of the Com-Vention. Further details as they are available.

Our Ham Fest Committee is chaired by David Dyer, KA5UXP, and consists of Jack Van Demark and Robert Ricketts. Please pass along any ideas or assistance to them.

Because of scheduling conflicts, we did not hold any examination sessions in June. However, the schedule resumes in July for the remainder of the year. Thanks go to Ray Dillard, Harold Parker, and Stu Lamkin for organizing these exam sessions.

Thanks also to Mike Eason for assuming the duties of Program Chairman. We look forward to working with Mike and enjoying some fine programs.

Bill Kemp, WB5CFI, is studying the idea of holding a second meeting of some sort somewhere in the West Houston area. This could be a lot of fun, so anyone with ideas please pass them along to Bill.

73 de ND5E

Event Directory

B-VARC Membership Meetings

Second Thursdays each month, gathering at 7:00 PM, call to order at 7:30 PM. Location is the Missouri City Civic Center, one mile south of US 90-A on FM 2234.

License Examinations

Second Tuesdays each Month, 7:00 PM, Houston. Fourth Saturdays each Month, 9:00 AM, Stafford.

Nets

Fort Bend County Emergency Management Net.

8:00 PM Mondays.

primary: 145.25 MHz (-600 kHz)
alternate: 145.47 MHz (-600 kHz)

B-VARC Public Service Net.

9:00 PM Mondays.

primary: 145.47 MHz (-600 kHz)
alternate: 146.70 MHz (-600 kHz)
alternate: 145.25 MHz (-600 kHz)

B-VARC RagChew Net.

8:30 PM Wednesdays, 3.960 MHz.

B-VARC Officers and Directors, 1987

President George Jolly, ND5E
Vice President Steve Yates, KA5DUU
Secretary Herb Nance, N5GZW
Treasurer Gerald Borg, N5APW
Director (3 yr) Robert Ricketts, N5JKD
Director (2 yr) Clint Gilliland, N5FNA
Director (1 yr) Jim Arnold, W5RNK
Director (P.P.) Steve Schuster, WA5G

VOLUNTEER EXAMINING SESSION SCHEDULES

Following are the Amateur Radio license exam sessions scheduled to be held in this area in July and August. The listing info is as follows:

- A. SPONSORED BY
B. Session dates and locations
C. For information, contact

- 1.A. BRAZOS VALLEY ARC
B. (1) 7 PM 7/14 & 8/11 in Houston, Tx.
(2) 9 AM 7/25 & 8/22 location go be determined
C. Stu Lamkin WB5IGG, 713-777-3345
2.A. HOUSTON ECHO SOCIETY
B. 8/1 in Houston, Tx.
C. Frank Robichaux N5AF, 713-931-9091
3.A. SAM HOUSTON AR KLUB
B. 8/15 in Cleveland, Tx.
C. Sam Neal N5AF, 713-222-3274
4.A. BRAZOSPORT ARC
B. 8/1 in Clute, Tx.
C. Steve Ray KA5KRI, 409-297-7494

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HONOR ROLL

B-VARC VOLUNTEER COMMUNICATORS

- A. Houston - Tenneco Marathon
B. Bayou City Fun Run
C. MS-150
D. Houston Azalea Run

- Dick Hagerman WB5SRN - A
Ray Dillard WA5F - A,D
Joe Ross KA5GTU - A,D
Henry Freidenberg N5HF - A
Harold Parker ND5F - A
Tom Sellers K5CNU - A
Stu Lamkin WB5IGG - A
Roger Messick KA5NTY - A
Steve Dunkelberger N5JBL - A,D
Dick Hagerman WB5SRN - D
Gerry Borg N5APW - D
George Jolly ND5E - D
Mike Eason KB5CGT - D

Dave Dyer - KA5UXP

For many moons it stood alone, tall and proud. Maybe it dreamed of the glory days before its owner abandoned CB (citizen's band).

Yes, those were the days. But those days were over. Now, the neglected antenna, still as good as it ever was, fell victim to that last barter before the junkyard... a garage sale.

Here, the Bargain Hunter struck. Proudly, he placed the antenna in his trophy room (a junk closet).

Still, the little antenna hoped for a rainbow. Even though 11-meters was no longer in vogue, many of its peers had been given a second chance. Strange beings, called "Hams", revived them for use on the 10-meter band.

But what about the 2-meter band? Gerry Borg, N5APW, wanted to build a magnetic-mount mobile antenna for Suzanne King, KB5BAY. The little antenna's hope united with Ham ingenuity.

Out from the closet came the long neglected base-load CB antenna. Some minutes of fidgeting and fuming revealed the secrets of disassembly, leaving parts scattered about the room.

Defeating the load coil was fairly simple. Gerry estimated the initial length of the whip to be 20 inches, better to start a lot longer than a little short.

Mike Kana, KA5WOT, joined the effort. He explained that SWR measurements must be made with a meter designed for the frequencies being transmitted.

Jack Van Demark, WN5A, loaned Gerry an SWR meter for the 2-meter band. Step by step, in small fractions of an inch, the original estimate of 20 inches was slowly trimmed to a little over 12 inches.

The efforts produced a very inexpensive magnetic-mount mobile antenna with an SWR less than 1.2 to 1 across the 2-meter band.

Once again, the little antenna rides high. This time atop Suzanne's car.

HELP A HANDICAPPED PERSON BECOME A HAM

ARRL HQ has received more than 250 inquiries from handicapped persons who hope they can become radio operators and thus have a new activity world open up for them. Are you interested in finding out how you might help them?

Included in this issue is a copy of a letter from Lee Haybord AH2W, Manager of the Club Service Department, sent to Special Service Clubs, which contains some interesting and thought provoking information on the subject. On the back of that letter is a copy of a request for additional information which the Courage Handi-Ham Center in Minneapolis will send.

If you'd like to know more about it, please fill out the form and send it promptly to Lee at ARRL HQ, 225 Main St., Newington CT 06111.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

There's a time to wink as well as to see.

--- Benjamin Franklin

Stu Lamkin - WB5IGG

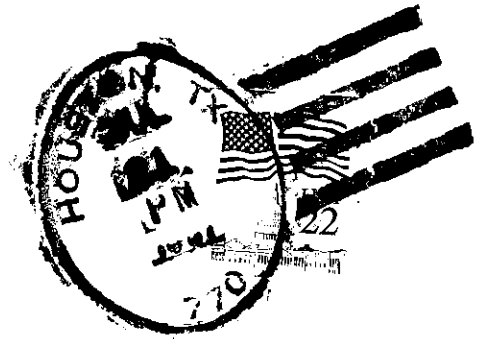
## ABOUT THE BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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.

### ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1630  
Missouri City, Texas 77459  
Telephone 731-663-6443  
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Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG  
7401 Heilig  
Houston , Tx 77074



June 16, 1987

Dear Special Service Club:

A public relations firm in New York City that works for League HQ got several articles about the "ARRL's Program for the Disabled" published in the May 1987 issues of Paraplegia News, Sports 'N Spokes, and DAV. These articles have generated over 250 responses from physically disabled people who want more information on ham radio. The problem, however, is that League HQ doesn't have the resources to adequately meet the special needs these people present. I contacted Maureen Pranghofer, KF0I, Student Coordinator, Courage Handi-Ham System, Minneapolis, MN, to find out how League HQ could steer these prospective physically disabled hams to people who could provide the needed help.

Maureen said that the Handi-Ham System has no structured program for teaching physically disabled prospective hams. Most of the teaching is accomplished on a one-to-one basis. Maureen is interested in getting a pool of volunteer instructors willing to learn how to help the physically disabled prospective ham. The Courage Handi-Ham System will provide the volunteer instructor/ham club with adaptive devices. The volunteer instructor can contact the Handi-Ham System by phone or letter for personal advice on problems that might come up. Maureen stressed that she'd like the volunteer instructors to become members of the Handi-Ham System. She added not many people are aware that membership in Handi-Hams is open to all hams--whether or not the ham is physically disabled.

The ARRL Club Services Department currently sends a prospective ham packet to all physically disabled people who write or call us for more information. We don't include a computer printout of instructors and clubs in the inquirer's area, however, since we don't want to refer a physically disabled prospective ham to a specific club or instructor unless that club or instructor has indicated an interest in this kind of outreach.

If you're interested in learning more about the Courage Handi-Ham System and how **you** can help, please indicate your interest by completing the enclosed information sheet and sending this sheet to: **The American Radio Relay League, Attention: Club Services Department, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111**. A list of interested instructors and Special Service Clubs will be compiled and sent to Maureen Pranghofer at the Courage Handi-Ham System. Maureen will contact you with more information. Thanks for your help!

73,

*Lee Hayford*

Lee Hayford, AH2W  
Manager, Club Services Department

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I'm interested in finding out how I can help the physically disabled prospective ham get started in Amateur Radio. please send me more information about the Courage Handi-Ham System.

\_\_\_\_\_ My Name/Club Name and Callsign

\_\_\_\_\_ Class of License

\_\_\_\_\_ Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_ City, State, and Zip

\_\_\_\_\_ Home Telephone #

\_\_\_\_\_ Work Telephone #

You can be that special person in a physically disabled person's life who provides the key for opening up a whole new world of worldwide friendship and possibilities via the airwaves. Thanks for your help!

73,

*Lee Hayford*

Lee Hayford, AH2W  
Manager, Club Services Department