

B-VARC BULLETIN

The Monthly Publication of the
BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Serving Fort Bend and Harris Counties

Editor-in-Chief: Irv Smith, KB5EXM

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 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, please call Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG, at (713)777-3345.

Volume: 11 Issue: 5

June 1988

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

From:

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 1630
Missouri City, TX 77459
Telephone (713)777-3345



Meeting Schedule

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Thursday, June 2 | B-VARC Board Meeting |
| 8:00 pm | Missouri City Fire Station |
| Thursday, June 9 | B-VARC General Meeting |
| 7:30 pm | Missouri City Fire Station |
| | (6:30 @ Vaso's; socialize at 7 at FD) |
| | Program: Field Day |
| Thursday, June 23 | B-VARC West-side Meeting |
| 7:30 pm | Bear Creek Civic Center |
| | Program: Slide Show |

Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG
7401 Heilig
Houston, Tx 77074

Stories from our Members

The following story was written and submitted by Henry Morrison, WSIRY. Thanks to Henry for this creative work, which concludes with this issue.

Near Scotland Light the pilot boat SANDY HOOK begin to blink, in the slow way of light signals: "MORRO CASTLE afire twenty miles south of Scotland. Proceed to scene and assist."

The pilot boat NEW YORK, coal-burning, vintage of 1897, immediately started for the scene, shuddering under the pressure of the unusual speed in rough seas

Chief Radio Operator Harold Gauley heard the first SOS aboard the freighter SAVANNAH, inbound from the Carolinas. Captain John Henry Diehl received the complete SOS message moments after 3:23 a.m. The ship continued on its course. Radio Operator Gauley phoned after a second SOS, and it was then Captain Diehl changed course and issued orders to make ready the lifeboats.

The sight of the fire by Captains Francis and Diehl was referred to as: "Sobering; two huge towers of flame; horrible screaming; unbelievable."

The Dollar Liner PRESIDENT CLEVELAND, under command of Captain Robert Carey, arrived with the MONARCH. At 6:20 a.m. the CLEVELAND was in position to lower boats made ready while approaching, but it was not until 7:08 a.m. Captain Carey gave the lower-away order. In a complete circuit of the MORRO CASTLE, they saw no one. The passengers had drifted from the MORRO CASTLE; hundreds of people still in the water but closer to shore. Captain Carey called the boats back at 8:00 a.m. The PRESIDENT CLEVELAND proceeded to New York.

The Coast Guard had problem-on-problem that morning. The Coast Guard radio station at Rockaway Inlet, New York, had been closed down and was in the process of being moved. The Navy was to receive and handle all radio traffic; however, the intermediate-frequency transmitters and receivers for commercial shipping were at the Brooklyn Navy Yard in

crates. Rockaway and the Brooklyn Navy Yard had no communications.

A trainee radio operator was aboard the cutter TAMPA at Pier 18, Staten Island, about thirty miles from the burning MORRO CASTLE and the SOS sent by Rogers. The trainee radio operator could not copy or comprehend the high speed of the distress signal. The same situation existed at sea aboard the cutter CAHOONE with two trainees listening but unable to read the CW. Aboard the CAYUGA, two hundred miles north in Boston harbor, experienced radio operators received the SOS and passed it to the captain; he assumed the cutters closer-in had received the message and did not order it passed on.

It was after 4:00 a.m. the TAMPA got notice of the SOS; 5:39 a.m. before the crew could be rounded up; and 8:00 a.m. before it reached the MORRO CASTLE.

Transmitting letter-by-letter, operators got through to the CAHOONE after 4:00 a.m. With a top speed of fifteen knots, it was 7:55 a.m. before the MORRO CASTLE was sighted.

There were fifteen Coast Guard patrol boats and surf boats ready to aid, but the seas were so high only a few feet could be seen in any direction. A subsequent board of inquiry held by the Coast Guard reported:

"Vessels standing by conveyed the impression all passengers had been rescued. The MONARCH OF BERMUDA was so busy handling press radio traffic (to and from New York newspapers) the CAHOONE could not break in. Had the MORRO CASTLE or the MONARCH OF BERMUDA given the CAHOONE any information lifeboats had gone ashore or passengers had gone over the side, the CAHOONE could have gone inshore to search, and some lives would have been saved. Instead, she stood by the MORRO CASTLE until 9:30 a.m. She was then informed by the TAMPA there were people in the water off Spring Lake. When she was finally given orders to search, she only recovered bodies."

Traffic from Your President

by : Dave Dyer, KASUXP/AE

First, a moment to brag. Miracles do exist. And, from time to time, they do happen. I know because one happened to me. That's right, I passed the 20 word per minute code exam. As you read these notes, the FCC is formulating a new call sign that will signify my achievement.

To all those wonderful hams, friends, and family members who provided encouragement and assistance, my sincere thanks.

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS

Dave Hammer (WJ5B), with helper Cindy Hammer (NSLXE), passed all the traffic collected at the Mother's Day event. Super job; thanks for your support.

Steve Gottlieb (WA5OEN), thank-you for chairing the B-VARC Mother's Day event committee.

Congratulations Irv Smith (KB5EXM). Last month's newsletter was one of the best ever, and it was well under budget.

Thanks Greg Lefebvre (KASLTW) for loaning us the use of your copier, and the time you have spent helping our newsletter committee.

Thanks Harold Parker (NDSF), for putting together such a successful meeting with Ray Weaver of Ft. Bend County. This is an exciting opportunity for hams interested in emergency management.

Thanks Larry Levy (W5DRB). We are all looking forward to your report on the advantages and disadvantages of owning club equipment (club station).

Thank-you Mike Eason (NSKRU) for coming up with those interesting programs we have been seeing at our Missouri City meetings.

Thank-you Bill Kemp (KB5CB) for making such a success of our meetings at Bear Creek.

PREFERENCES POLL

At last month's meeting, members took part in a preference poll. The results, which were very surprising and interesting, will be used as input in determining B-VARC's long range goals and plans.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Just as a sailor must decide where he wants to go before he charts a course, we must decide where we want B-VARC to go before we can make a plan to get there.

It is your club; send us your ideas for what the club should strive to become over the next five years.

Send your input to the box.

NEWSLETTER NOTES

by : Irv Smith, KB5EXM

We are continuing to search for ways to reduce the cost of printing and mailing your newsletter. As mentioned last month, it takes 200 pieces to qualify for bulk mail. Ron, NSMKQ, plans to help us with some of the mechanics of bulk mailing. He suggests sending to all hams in B-VARC's general area, which might lead to some more members. Dave, KASUXP, is working on plans to include the Katy people on this list.

Roland Torres, KB5EQH, asked and received permission from his employer, Warner Cable, to run the copies on their machine. We are pleased to give them recognition elsewhere in this issue. Roland (and, if free that night, perhaps his brother, Robert, KB5EZQ) did the work putting together. I appreciate their help.

Please send all Newsletter items to me at the B-VARC post office box. Or, get them to me in any form including ASCII format on a disk.

RESULTS OF THE MAY EXAM

by: Harold Parker, ND5F

B-VARC again sponsored the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, May 12, 1988 at Strake Jesuit in Houston.

The V.E. Team and Assistants:

Randy Pollard, AK5G
Henry Morrison, W5RIY
Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG
Harold Parker, ND5F

A total of seventeen (17) exams were administered during the evening to nine (9) applicants. Of those, one (1) is a new Novice and three (3) upgraded their license with a total of six (6) elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was thirty-five (43) percent.

Congratulations to all the following who upgraded and passed exams:

George Harris, KB5DDM . . . Element 3B
Greg Morris Novice
Paul Norris, KB5GDO . . . Technician
Charles Prochaska, KB5EQJ . Advanced
Carolyn Wilson, KB5FPO . . . General

Many thanks to our V.E. Team Members and Assistants for all their time and effort. We especially want to thank Vincent, WA5ETS, and everyone at Strake Jesuit for allowing us to use the classroom each month for our exams.

FUTURE EVENTS

July 7 B-VARC Board Meeting
July 14 B-VARC General Meeting
July 23 West-Side Social
(Confirm summer schedule
with Bill Kemp, KG5CB)

V.E. SESSIONS IN JUNE-JULY

by: Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG

Following are Radio Amateur license exam sessions scheduled to be held in this area in June and July 1988. The listing information is as follows:

- A. Sponsored by
 - B. Date & Site location
 - C. For details, contact
- 1) A. Brazos Valley ARC
B. June 14, July 12 & 23 in Houston
C. Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG, 713-777-3345
 - 2) A. Houston Echo Society
B. July 30 in Houston
C. Irv Block, NZ5V, 713-497-8750
 - 3) A. Sam Houston AR Klub
B. June 11 in Cleveland, TX
C. Sam Neal, N5AF, 713-592-2257

NET DIRECTORIES

Sunday	West Houston RACES
8:00 p.m.	146.06 (-0.6)
Monday	Fort Bend ARES
8:00 p.m.	147.30 (+0.6)
Monday	B-VARC Public Service
8:00 p.m.	145.47 (-0.6)
Tuesday	10X Houston SHOT
8:00 p.m.	28.488
Tuesday	B-VARC CW Practice
8:00 p.m.	145.47 (-0.6)
Tuesday	AMSAT
10:00 p.m.	145.45 (-0.6)
Wednesday	B-VARC 75m Ragchew
8:30 p.m.	3.960
Wednesday	CW Net (25 to 13 wpm)
8:30 p.m.	147.32 (+0.6)
Friday	B-VARC CW Practice
8:00 p.m.	145.47 (-0.6)
Saturday	CW Net (25 to 13 wpm)
8:30 p.m.	147.32 (+0.6)

1988 Field Day

B-VARC will hold Field Day on June 25-26, 1988 at the ranch of Mike Eason (N5KRU). The site is located near Bellville, Texas. The object of Field Day is "to work as many stations as possible and, in doing so, to learn to operate in abnormal situations under less-than-optimum conditions. A premium is placed on skills and equipment developed to meet the challenge of emergency preparedness and to acquaint the public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio."

Field Day starts at 1800 UTC (1 PM CDT) and lasts for 24 hours. Field Day is operated in a contest format in that you try to contact as many stations as possible to score points. Our Field Day will not emphasize the contest aspect, rather we are planning to have fun and relaxation. We plan to have 3 HF stations in operation along with a novice station and a packet station during the contest. Please come out and help us operate these stations.

To make Field Day work, we need your help with supplies. Items needed are co-ax, antennas, tables, chairs, ropes, extension cords, tents, and just about any other items you can think of. Please call me if you have any items that we may use. The following people and items have been committed:

Generator - Stu (WB5IGG)	Novice Station - Dave (KA5UXP)
TS 530 - Jerry (N5APW)	Packet Station - Ray (WA5F)
4-band vertical & push-up pole - Jerry (N5APW)	
901 DM - Bud (KB5DYN)	General Help - Bill (KC5CB)
antennas - Mike (KA5WOT)	TS-430 - Joe (AA5BD)
SB-102 - Rick (KA5YSL)	Truck - Rick (KA5YSL)
2 sec. Tower - Harold (ND5F)	General Help - Bill (N5KXU)
General Help - Irv (KB5EXM)	Tri-bander - Jack (WN5A)
Games & Cards - Suzanne (KA5BAY)	Telescope - Randy (AK5G)
General Help - Herb (N5GZW)	Rig & Antenna - Steve (KA5DUU)

If I have missed any one please call me and let me know.

We will meet at Champs, located on Hillcroft just south of the Southwest Freeway, at 9:30 AM on Saturday June 25 and all arrive early enough (about 8 AM) to do so. The Houston area frequency will be 145.47 -600. When we run out of repeater range the frequency will be 145.67 simplex. This will also be the frequency that will be used within the Field Day site.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 729-6484.

Submitted by Randy (AK5G)

TEXAS COUNTY MAPS

by : Irv Smith, KB5EXM

Do you ever need a detailed set of maps for transmitter hunts, chasing trains, or just driving on back roads?

One of the best bargains around is the set of quarter-scale maps published by the Texas Highway department. The bound set has about 800 pages of 10" x 14" maps at a scale of 1" = 4 miles.

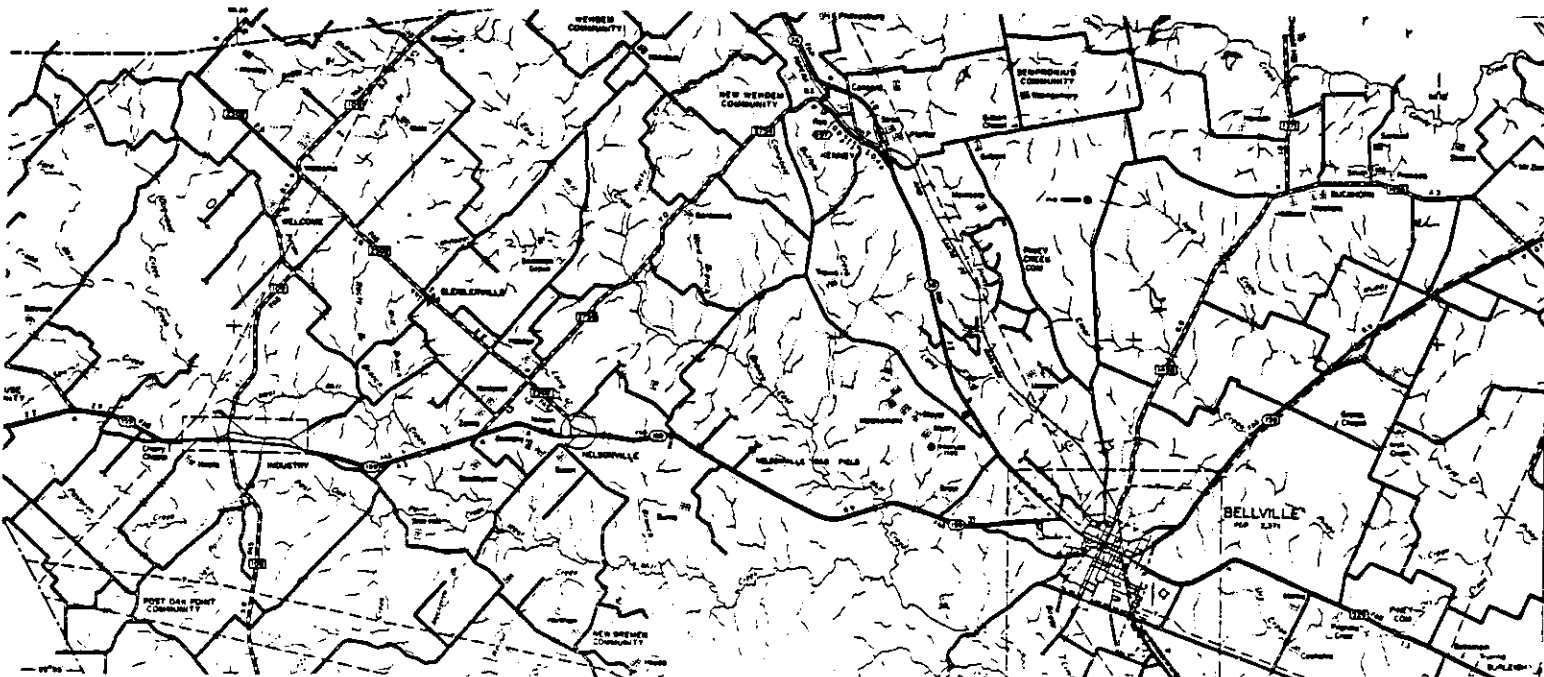
There are many detailed maps on a 1" = 1 mile scale. These show individual streets with names (but no index) and also show railroad passing sidings plus many other cultural details and landmarks. None of the maps are contoured.

The book costs \$20.00 plus tax at the Highway Department office on Washington Street (where larger-scale individual maps may be bought also), or the state will mail it to you in return for a \$23.95 check. Send your money to:

Highway Department: File D-10
Box 5051, West Austin Station
Austin, TX 78763-5051

I'll bring my set to the next B-VARC meeting so you can look at it.

The map shown below is an excerpt from the Austin County page. It is copied full-size from the map book.



B-VARC PICNIC

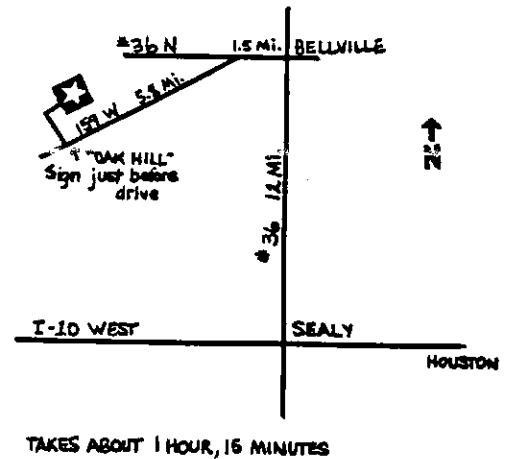
by : Suzanne King, KB5BAY

The picnic will be held in conjunction with Field Day at the Eason's ranch (see Field Day article for directions). The date is Saturday, June 25th, and the time is 4:30 p.m. til ?

Each family is asked to bring a dish (salad, dessert, etc). Please let me know (270-4188) what you want to bring. Also, BYOB. A collection of \$3.00 for adults and \$1.50 for children will help defray the cost of a brisket to be shared by all.

Hope to see you there! This will be a fun event at a nice place in the country with Field Day.

FIELD DAY MAP



THE OBSERVATION POST

FCC Field Operations Bureau Amateur Auxiliary

May 13, 1988

Dear Amateur Auxiliary members -

Attached are two items that I believe you'll find to be of interest:

1. FCC's affirmation of the \$1,450 forfeiture previously levied against W4UWH for purported violations of several Part 97 rules and,
2. A copy of the July 1983 QST "Washington Mailbox" column that discusses band edge operation. As you're all likely aware, there's a large number of Amateur Auxiliary members who spend a certain percentage of their time monitoring band edge operation. A review of this column will hopefully shed some much-needed light on what's proper and what's not, both in terms of operation and the sending of notices to other Amateurs regarding band edge operation.

Once again, a reminder that all CD-15, CD-213, and CD-23 forms should be relegated to the circular file, as they are now obsolete. If you're in need of the new FSD-23 monthly report forms (dated 2/88), please don't hesitate to request them, or any other forms necessary for your volunteer work as members of the Amateur Auxiliary.

Thank you for your continued excellent support of the Amateur Auxiliary, and very 73.

Luck

Luck Hurder, KY1T
Deputy Manager, Field Services Department

Band Edges

"How close can I set my dial to the band edge?" is a question asked not only by the beginner, but by experienced amateurs as well. This month, we'll tell you how close you can go to get that rare DX QSL card — and avoid that rare FCC "QSL" card.

Q. I'm an active hf phone DXer. How close to the band edges can I set my VFO?

A. Many factors are involved. A-m double-sideband signals occupy about 6 to 7 kHz of band space, or *bandwidth* — 3 kHz on each side of the carrier (center) frequency. Most amateurs, though, use single-sideband emissions on the popular DX phone bands. Properly generated single-sideband signals have only one discernible sideband and no audible carrier because of strong suppression of the carrier and the unwanted sideband. Thus, to determine where you may set your VFO in relation to the band edge, you must consider (1) which band edge you're near (upper or lower) and (2) which sideband is suppressed. For example, if you're an Extra Class licensee working near the bottom edge of the 20-meter phone band (14.150 MHz) and using the upper sideband, your VFO can be set just inside the band edge if the unwanted lower sidebands are suppressed by at least 40 dB (97.73[a]). The carrier frequency should be located inside the band edge regardless of the level of suppression. The carrier frequency is the frequency of operation and is required to be within the authorized frequency band (97.63[a]). Always allow a margin of safety for possible inaccuracy of your frequency readout.

If you're operating near the top edge (14.350 MHz) with the upper sideband, you must set your VFO dial at least 3 kHz away to accommodate your sideband. Remember, all of your sidebands must be confined within the amateur bands and subbands as applicable (97.63[b]).

Morse Code

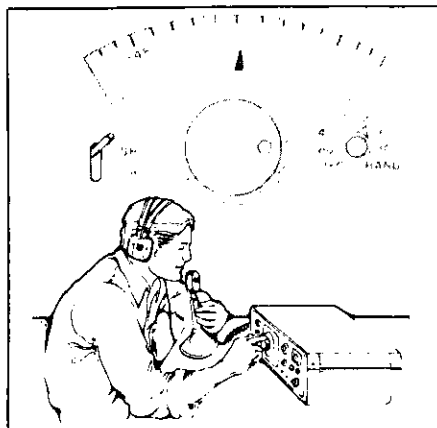
Q. When operating cw, how close to the band edge can I go?

A. The answer depends upon how fast you send your code. The bandwidth of a cw signal in hertz is approximately four times the sending speed in words per minute. For example, if you're honking along at 25 wpm, the signal occupies about 100 Hz of spectrum. So, keep your VFO at least half of the bandwidth away from the band edge: 50 Hz or more. Also, most rigs offset the transmit signal from the receive by 600 to 800 Hz, so this factor should be considered in your final frequency determination. Remember, the faster your fist, the greater space you're taking up on the band!

Bandwidth Limitations

Q. How wide can my voice signal be?

A. For a-m double sideband voice, bandwidth



should not be greater than 7 kHz to be consistent with good engineering and amateur practice. You should take precautions to avoid overmodulating your transmitter so you don't "splatter" and make your signal wider than necessary. Single-sideband signal bandwidth should normally be confined to 3 kHz per good engineering practice (97.78, 2.202). Incidentally, the Commission defines *bandwidth* as the width of the frequency band outside of which the mean power of any emission is at least 26 dB below the average power level of the total emission (97.65[e][3]).

Q. How about my fm voice signal?

A. The bandwidth of an fm voice signal is determined by the audio frequency employed and its amplitude. The only FCC restrictions on fm voice signals apply to operation below 29 MHz, where their bandwidths may not exceed that of an A3 double-sideband emission with the same audio characteristics: about 6 to 7 kHz. Wider fm bandwidths are permitted above 29 MHz. Common fm repeater and repeater-user signals occupy 15 to 25 kHz (16 kHz is the norm) of spectrum, usually depending on the attenuation character of the filter preceding the modulated stage. That is, the carrier frequency deviates off center by 5 kHz on either side, with the rest of the bandwidth occurring from sidebands of the input signal based on the Bessel function distribution. This type of fm operation is generally referred to as 16F3 narrow-band fm and is used almost exclusively by gentlemen's agreement below 450 MHz on the popular repeater areas.

Some repeater transmitters use 7 or 8 kHz of deviation from the center frequency. But, such operation is generally frowned upon by the fm community because more space than necessary is used to carry out the desired communications. The FCC 29-MHz cutoff rule for fm voice bandwidth is found in Section 97.65(c).

TV and Facsimile

Q. Why is fast-scan television not found on the hf bands?

A. Fast-scan television, a mode in which images appear in the same manner as a home broadcast TV, is not found at hf because of the bandwidth limitations. To get across all the information necessary for a fast-moving TV picture, much spectrum is required; so much, in fact, that on the relatively small hf bands other modes of communication would be precluded. Thus, bandwidth limits restrict hf TV operation to the slow-scan variety, whereby images appear as a photograph, or "stop-action," and do not require oodles of band space.

When using a-m or fm TV and facsimile (fax is a method of sending pictures and words for permanent display on paper) below 50 MHz, signals must not be wider than a single-sideband voice emission, about 3 kHz (97.65[d]).

Between 50 and 225 MHz, a-m fax and TV *single-sideband* signals may not be wider than a voice ssb signal, about 3 kHz. A-m fax and TV *double-sideband* signals may not be wider than an a-m double-sideband voice signal, about 6 to 7 kHz, when operating between 50 and 225 MHz. On fm at this segment, 20 kHz is the limit for fax and TV (97.65[e]).

No special bandwidth limits apply above 420 MHz, so you'll find wider bandwidth modes, such as fast-scan television, there. But, remember that in all cases not specifically covered by the rules, the various signals must be used in accordance with good engineering practice. Use state-of-the-art equipment that is properly adjusted. Conserve spectrum!

Digital Codes

Q. What are the bandwidth limits for RTTY modes?

A. Bandwidth limits for digital transmissions are indirectly provided by FCC restrictions on sending speeds. The amount of spectrum employed depends largely upon the speed at which data is transmitted and the frequency shift. The slower the sending speed, the less band space used.

Sending speeds are specified by FCC in terms of baud. Baud rate is the reciprocal of the time of one data pulse in a digital character, e.g., $1/0.022 \text{ seconds} = 45 \text{ baud}$. At hf, where the bands are narrower than their vhf counterparts, sending speeds are more restrictive: 300 baud between 3.5 and 28.0 MHz. Spectrum conservation is the name of the game at hf, as we've seen from our discussion of slow- versus fast-scan television.

The limit for digital transmission between 28 and 50 MHz is 1200 baud; 19.6 kilobaud between 50 and 220 MHz; and 56 kilobaud above 220 MHz, where there is much greater space to play.

[Note: Questions appearing in this column are typical of those frequently asked of the FCC and other agencies. Answers, prepared at ARRL, have been reviewed by the FCC's Personal Radio Branch for agreement with current FCC interpretations and policy. Numbers in parentheses refer to specific sections of the FCC rules.]

*Assistant Manager, Membership Services, ARRL

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS RELEASE



MEETING MEETING MEETING!!!!!!

THE KATY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
SERVING WEST HARRIS AND FT. BEND
COUNTIES IS HAVING A MEETING.

EVERY 3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
AT 7:30 PM. OUR MEETING IS AT THE
BEAR CREEK COMMUNITY CENTER BEHIND
THE FARM AND RANCH CLUB
IN BEAR CREEK PARK OFF OF HWY 6.

OUR 1988 GOAL IS EDUCATION.
IF YOU NEED TO BE INFORMED ON
AMATEUR RADIO AND RELATED SUBJECTS
YOU SHOULD BE ATTENDING
OUR MEETINGS.

OUR MAY MEETING WILL HAVE
WASUZZ (ALLEN) AND K5CVD (JAY)
GIVE US SOME
(WHAT'S HAPPENING) FROM
THE A.R.R.L.

OUR JUNE MEETING WILL HAVE
ALEX FROM CITY ELECTRONICS
WITH A TALK ON BUGCATCHER
BUILDING AND OTHER MOBILE
ANTENNA DESIGNS. PLUS WE
HOPE A BUGCATCHER FOR A
DOOR PRIZE!!!!!!!

FUTURE GUEST SPEAKERS
TO BE ANNOUNCED.

COME JOIN US, BE YOU HAM
OR POTENTIAL HAM.

TALK-IN 147.200

73'S
FRED FLEMING (KM5S)
PRESIDENT
KATY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

May the Morse Be With You

W1AW SCHEDULE - APRIL, 88 DST
(FOR APRIL 3 THRU OCTOBER 29)
ALL TIMES ARE C.D.T.

<u>MON, WED & FRI</u>	<u>TUE, TH, SAT & SUN</u>
8:00 AM - SLOW CW PRACTICE	8:00 AM - FAST CW PRACTICE **
9:00 AM - CW BULLETINS	9:00 AM - CW BULLETINS **
10:00 AM - TELE BULLETINS	10:00 AM - TELE BULLETINS **
3:00 PM - FAST CW PRACTICE	3:00 PM - SLOW CW PRACTICE
4:00 PM - CW BULLETINS	4:00 PM - CW BULLETINS
5:00 PM - TELE BULLETINS	5:00 PM - TELE BULLETINS
6:00 PM - SLOW CW PRACTICE	6:00 PM - FAST CW PRACTICE
7:00 PM - CW BULLETINS	7:00 PM - CW BULLETINS
8:00 PM - TELE BULLETINS	8:00 PM - TELE BULLETINS
8:30 PM - VOICE BULLETINS	8:30 PM - VOICE BULLETINS
9:00 PM - SLOW CW PRACTICE	9:00 PM - FAST CW PRACTICE *
10:00 PM - CW BULLETINS	10:00 PM - CW BULLETINS
11:00 PM - TELE BULLETINS	11:00 PM - TELE BULLETINS
11:30 PM - VOICE BULLETINS	11:30 PM - VOICE BULLETINS

SUNDAY

9:00 PM - SLOW CW PRACTICE

NOTE: * - NOT TRANSMITTED ON SUNDAY
** - NOT TRANSMITTED ON SATURDAY OR SUNDAY

HAROLD, NDSF
MAY 5, 1988

NOTES FROM THE V.P.

by: Suzanne King, KB5BAY

Another Board Meeting has come and gone. We had our meeting on May 5th at 8:00 p.m., and we talked about many things.

Under old business we discussed the upcoming Field Day/Picnic. Randy, AK5G, stated that the Field Day Committee would not need any monies from the club treasury. He then suggested that a Field Day fund box be passed at the General Membership Meeting for the next few months. This last month we raised \$53. Thank you all for contributing to this effort. On this subject, the picnic is coming along; however, we still need some more side dishes to be brought. If anyone would like to bring anything, I would appreciate being contacted at 270-4188.

Under new business we discussed our club budget. This last month we did well, thanks to Greg, K5LTW, donating his copy machine. We discussed ways of increasing our account balance. One way we decided we could do this is by having some sort of swap-meet. Let any board member know how you feel about this idea, so we can know whether or not to pursue it.

Well, there has been yet another board vacancy. Frank De Armas, KB5EQG, has resigned his position as B-VARC treasurer. On a happy note he has gotten married to his long-time girl friend, Jan. Congratulations and best wishes to both of them. The reason for Frank's resigning is a job move out of state. We all wish them the best on their new venture.

Board meetings are always on the first Thursday at 8:00 p.m. at the Missouri City Central Fire Station. All members of B-VARC are welcome to attend. I hope to see y'all out there.

73's, Suzanne, KB5BAY

Brazos Valley Activity Roster

by: Ray Dillard, W5AF

A. Houston Tenneco Marathon B. Azalea Run
C. Bayou City Fun Run D. MS-150 Bike Tour
E. JDF 10k Fun Run F. March of Dimes
G. Mothers Day H. 10k Rodeo Run

Gerry Borg, N5APW - D
Ralph Cheek, KB5DNT - D.E
Ray Dillard, W5AF - A.B.C.D.E.F.G.H
Dave Dyer, KASUXP - B.D.F.G
Karl Dyer, N5LGS - B.C.D.F.G
Mike Eason, N5KRU - B.
Andy Getz, KB5EYP - D.G
Steve Gottlieb, W5OEN - G
Dick Hagerman, W5SRN - A.D
Cindy Hammer, N5LXE - B.D.F.G
Dave Hammer, WJ5B - B.D.F
Ron Harris, N5MKO - F
Ed Harwell, W5WVX - D.G
Kathy Jolly, KASWHK - H
George Jolly, ND5E - H
Lee Lance, KB5EST - B
Dave Lance, KB5EYK - B.C.D
Bill Kemp, KG5CB - D
Suzanne King, KB5BAY - D.G
Stu Lamkin, W5IGG - A
Allen Mattis, N5AFV - A
Bud Miles, N5MFN - B.D
Stephen Miles, N5MBN - B.D
Henry Morrison, W5RIY - E
Herb Nance, N5GZW - D.G
Harold Parker, ND5F - A
Joe Ross, AA5BD - D
Irv Smith, KB5EXM - D.G
Jack Van Demark, WNSA - D.G
Tom Whitehurst, KCSUN - F

Sorry this list is not complete. Please make a note to inform me if I have left out an event or your name off the list. **AR**

WESTSIDE NOTES

by: Bill Kemp, KG5CB

I hope everyone is getting ready for the HOT summer that should be upon us by now! It seems like there is no place like Houston WX in the summer.

A special thanks to all of you who have contributed to the 442.5 RACE Repeater fund drive. Hopefully, by the end of the summer, we will have upgraded the equipment somewhat and I think you will find it one of the best coverage repeaters in the area.

Things are moving ahead out on the West part of town. Several of us have entered discussions with the Harris County Pct. 3 people concerning emergency communications in this area. Also we have contacted the Katy Amateur Radio Club concerning joint activities. We will have a combined get-together with the Katy hams this summer, so watch the newsletter for details.

Our June social will be on Thursday, June 23rd, and our program will be given by Lee, KASWJB, and Jack, WNSA. They will give us a presentation on their recent trips to Honduras and Big Bend area. This will also be a good time to make last minute plans for Field Day and the picnic!

SEE YOU THERE!

PICNIC AT THE HAMMERS'

by: Cindy Hammer, NSLXE

On Saturday, July 16th, we will host a picnic at our 60-acre antenna farm. This is located at the east end of Hansom Road in the Greenspoint area. (Called "Handsome" on the Kay Map at 411-C)

Bring your appetite (and equipment if you want!); we will furnish the food. The time is 12:30 p.m. 'til whenever ...

SOS de MORRO CASTLE (continued)

At Cape May, on the southern tip of New Jersey, the Coast Guard station was not required to deal with distress signals. Quartermaster Third Class Bryant Hill received the SOS a little after 3:30 a.m., and woke Acting Officer-of-the-Day, Quartermaster Frank W. Hess. Hess made no attempt to contact the base commander, but put the message on the table beside his bed and went back to sleep. It was well into the afternoon before two planes, without radio communication, flew out of Cape May to assist. The storm was a full gale, and without radios, there was nothing they could do to help anyone.

There was nothing that could be done to aid the doomed MORRO CASTLE. The steel bulkheads were a superheat red and spread the fire through the wooded panels that had given the ship such a look of quality. The many radio operators performed beyond normal expectations when presented with a fire at sea during a hurricane.

With today's world of electronics and the hundreds of aids available, the MORRO CASTLE story would have been different in outcome - all except for the people - they would have been just as brave at any moment in time. But that is the way it was the morning of September 8th, 1934.

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