

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 437-4803
Production Manager: Roland Torres, KB5EQH 933-4143

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 Fort Bend and Southwest Harris 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 each year conducts classes leading to amateur radio licenses, and each month sponsors a volunteer-examiner team which offers examinations in all levels of HAM licenses.

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

Volume: 11 Issue: 10

November 1988

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

B-VARC Meeting Schedule

Thursday, November 10 General Meeting
7:30 pm Missouri City Fire Station

OFFICER ELECTIONS!

Program: Dietary Tips for Hams,
by: Lori Valencic, Dietitian
Supper: Slumgullion, by Bill, NSMPN

Thursday, December 1 Board Meeting
7:30 pm Missouri City Fire Station

THE PRESIDENTIAL NOTEPAD

by: Dave Dyer, AA5GA

ELECTION TIME IS HERE

Time to stop, think, and vote. Just as the nation is deciding upon its leadership for the future, B-VARC members must consider new leadership for its future.

Time for us to decide on one individual to speak for us, to listen to our inputs and translate them into actions that will be the future of our organization. In short, we must pick a new president.

In addition, we must vote for vice-president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, treasurer, and one at-large board position.

Please, come on out to the November meeting and vote for the candidate of your choice.

CAMPAIGN SPEECH

Even though I am not running this year, I will make a brief campaign speech. Please vote for Jack Van Demark (WN5A) for President, Bill Dessens (N5KXU) for Vice-President, Brenson Abbott (KF5VZ) for Treasurer. I understand that Allen Mattis (N5AFV) is going to run for the at-large board position. He would be a very good man to have on the board.

Thanks for reading my campaign speech.

THE 145.47 (MERA) REPEATER NEEDS \$\$\$

Recently, Dave Hammer (WJ5B) took his service monitor to the MERA (Memorial Emergency Radio Association) repeater to study the intermod problem. Ray Dillard (W5AF) helped with the analysis.

Bottom line, the repeater needs two new cavities to replace a bad cavity and increase the rejection of unwanted rf. In addition, the repeater needs a control link.

These things cost money. Please help. Send money to Suzanne King (KB5BAY). It will help make for a better repeater for all.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

'Tis the season for many club activities. For example, the Two Wheel Transit Authority (a bicycle club) just sponsored the Moonlight Rambler Bicycle Ride.

Bike-a-thons, Walk-a-thons, and Marathons are events that are spread out over a large geographic area. Communications with key points on the course can make the difference between success and failure for these events. Ham radio is the ideal solution.

Many operators are needed to help support these civic activities. Heed the call for help -- UNCLE B-VARC WANTS YOU!

Working the events is a lot of fun. Ask Doug Holley (K5SSR), one of the many who worked the Moonlight Rambler. Ask Karl Albrecht (KA5QLQ) or Suzanne King (KB5BAY) or Ray Dillard (W5AF), some of the members that helped out with the 20k Houston Marathon Warm-up Race. They'll tell you.

CONGRATULATIONS

Deborah Dyer (KB5GUY) for your ten meter DX contact with YAS (JE2FUP) in Toyota City, Japan on your 12th Birthday.

Roland Torres (KB5EQF) for holding together the newsletter almost single-handedly while Irv Smith (KB5EXM) was on vacation. Volunteers for the newsletter committee should contact Irv.

Gregg Lefevre (K5LTW) for the outstanding programs we have been having. Volunteers for the program committee should contact Gregg.

Bill Hickox (K5BDZ) for upgrading to EXTRA.

Karla Dyer (N5LGS) for upgrading to GENERAL.

continued . . .

QUIZ ?????

What does "Bissotwo" mean? Where do you find it? Answer next month. Can anybody tell me who coined the word? (I don't know.)

Irv, KB5EXM

THE PRESIDENTIAL NOTE PAD

(... continued)

B-VARC NOVICE CLASS

Lee Shull (KA5WJB) is heading up this semester of the B-VARC Novice Class.

The roster for the class includes:

Robert Moore	-- Sugarland, Tx.
Doug Mincy	-- Katy, Tx.
Melanie Edwards	-- Houston, Tx.
Dr. Julius Danziger	-- Houston, Tx.
Joe Hampton	-- So. Houston, Tx.
Beth Brown	-- Katy, Tx.
Bob Hamilton	-- Houston, Tx.
Mont P. Hoyt	-- Houston, Tx.
Chris Trevino	-- Houston, Tx.
Doug Simonton	-- Katy, Tx.
Reza Pouraghabagher	-- Richmond, Tx.
Dannie Copsey, Jr.	-- Houston, Tx.
Denver Radford	-- Houston, Tx.
Kristi French	-- Houston, Tx.
Bill Richards	-- Sugarland, Tx.

Glenn Edwards (WB4LZG) helps Lee with the class. He was sort of drafted. His daughter, Melanie, is one of the students.

Steve Gottlieb (WA5OEN) brought his mobile HF setup to a recent class. His ten meter voice contact with the ICOM AMERICA station in Washington state gave many of the students their first taste of the fun side of Amateur Radio.

FUTURE EVENTS

Nov. 5: Missouri City P.D. Citizen's Auxiliary Benefit Dance (Irv, KB5EXM)

Nov. 12th Weekend:

Cinco Ranch 25K Event (Allen, N5AFV)
Bicycle Ride to San Antonio (Ray, WASF)
Ham-Com '88 (See Brochure)

Dec. 1: B-VARC Board Meeting

Dec. 8: B-VARC General Meeting

Jan. 12: B-VARC Banquet (Suzanne, KB5BAY)

Y.E. SESSIONS IN NOV-DEC

by: Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG

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

- A. Sponsored by
- B. Date & Site location
- C. For details, contact

- 1) A. Brazos Valley ARC
B. Nov. 5 & Dec. 13 in Houston
C. Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG, 713-777-3345
- 2) A. Houston Echo Society
B. Nov. 19 in Houston
C. Irv Block, N25V, 713-497-8750
- 3) A. Sam Houston AR Klub
B. Dec. 10 in Cleveland, TX
C. Sam Neal, N5AF, 713-222-3274
- 4) A. Brazosport ARC
B. Nov. 5 in Angleton, TX
C. Steve Ray, KA5KRI, 409-297-7494
- 5) A. Golden Triangle Exam. Comm.
B. Dec. 3 in Beaumont, TX
C. Sid Phillips, 409-886-2732
- 6) A. Houston Ham Conventions, Inc.
B. Nov. 13 in Houston (See Ham-Com '88 Flyer)
C. Harold Parker, ND5F, 713-464-9044

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	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)
Saturday	CW Net (25 to 13 wpm)
8:30 p.m.	147.32 (+0.6)

V.C.S. Art. 6701c-2. Special license tags for operators of mobile amateur radio equipment. Section 1. Residents of the State of Texas who hold an unrevoked and unexpired official amateur radio station license issued by the Federal Communications Commission and who operate receiving and transmitting mobile amateur radio equipment in passenger cars or in trucks, commonly known as pickup trucks, with a manufacturer's rated carrying capacity not to exceed 2,000 pounds, upon application, accompanied by proof of ownership of such amateur license, complying with the State motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, and upon payment of the regular license fee for tags and the payment of an additional fee of Two (\$2) Dollars for the first year of such registration and One (\$1) Dollar for each annual registration thereafter, shall be issued license plates, upon which may be inscribed the official amateur call letters of such applicant as assigned by the Federal Communications Commission.

Sec. 2. Applicants shall furnish proof of the Federal Communications Commission authority and their call letters to the State Highway Department, on or before the 1st day of October, preceding each registration year, and the State Highway Department shall furnish their respective Tax Assessors and Collectors license plates bearing the call letters of the applicant.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the County Tax Assessors and Collectors to keep on file a copy or copies of the license receipts issued for such call letter license plates. At the regular registration period the Tax Collector shall give the applicant the call letter tags and corresponding receipts. Such call letter license tags shall be the legal registration insignia for the registration year for which issued, on the vehicle containing the mobile amateur radio equipment, while applicant is the bona fide owner of said vehicle.

Sec. 4. If during the registration year the applicant shall sell, trade, give, or in any way dispose of the vehicle upon which the call letter license tags are affixed he shall turn such tags into the County Tax Assessor and Collector and receive from him replacement license tags for a fee as prescribed by law.

V.C.S. Art. 6675a-13a. Replacement number plates. The owner of a registered motor vehicle may obtain from the Department through the County Tax Collector replacement number plates for such vehicle by filing with said collector an affidavit showing that said number plate or plates have been lost, stolen or mutilated, and by paying a fee of five dollars for each set of plates issued. The County Tax Assessor-Collector shall retain as commission one-half (1/2) of this fee collected for replacement number plates and the other one-half (1/2) of such fee shall be reported to and remitted to the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation on Monday of each week as other registration fees are now required to be reported and remitted. In case one or more plates are left in possession of such owner same shall be returned to the Tax Collector when making this affidavit. Said affidavit shall state that such plate or plates have been lost, stolen or mutilated and will not be used on any vehicle owned or operated by the person making this affidavit. No Tax Collector shall issue replacement plates without requiring compliance with the provisions of this Section.

SLUMGULLION

slum-gul-lion (slum gul'yən, slum'gul'-), *n.* 1. a stew of meat, vegetables, potatoes, etc. 2. a beverage made weak or thin, as watery tea, coffee, or the like. 3. the refuse from processing whale carcasses. 4. a reddish, muddy deposit in mining sluices. [1840-50, *Amer.*; cf. Scots, *Hiberno-E gullion* quagmire, cesspool]

Bill, N5MPN, is bringing this dish for the November 10th meeting. (Elections!) We hope Definition 1 applies rather than the third definition!

Lee furnished the language out of Vernon's Civil Statutes, shown on left. It may be slightly out-of-date, as it contains the same October deadline shown on the form included last month.

That form was supplied by the Fort Bend County Tax Office. It is out of date, but served fine for Irv to get his plates. The total turnaround time was only about one month.

The Austin License Office tells us that the October 1st. deadline no longer applies. (It may have been in effect some years ago when all plates expired on the end of year.)

Be sure to send in a copy of your FCC Radio License. If you don't, they will look up your name in the Call Book. If you aren't in it, they will return the application.

The annual renewal fee is only \$1.00 above your normal fee (and even this may not apply now). Renewal is handled by mail out of Austin, just as for regular plates.

Before you sell the car, you must go to your County office and get replacement plates to put on your old car. They cost \$5.00. You get to keep the Call-Sign plates, because they are transferrable.

If you buy a new car, just show the plate to the dealer, and they will file for the new registration with that number.

If you buy a used car, go through the same paperwork as you did initially.

Only one car may bear your call sign plates. (Some states allow more than one.)

The car must be registered in your name. However, if it is jointly owned, the county may let you get away with it. I suspect you are out of luck on a leased or company car.

QUIZ (continued)

What does "Soxisix" mean?

NOTES FROM THE Y.P.

The October Board Meeting was held on 10/5/88. The Board attendees were Dave (AA5GA) Dyer, Jack (WNSA) Van Demark, Herb (N5GZW) Nance, Carl (KA5QLQ) Albrecht, Brenson (KF5VZ) Abbott, and myself (KB5BAY). Greg (K5LTW) Lefebvre also joined us, and voiced his opinion on a few issues. We, the Board, hope that Greg will continue attending the meetings, and that anyone else in the membership who is interested in the business end of the club will attend as well. Remember, the Board Meeting is not closed to Board Members only; anyone can join in the fun.

At the Board Meeting we discussed three things under "Old Business":

- 1) HamComm - B-VARC will be helping out at the VE testing, and the Swapfest.
- 2) Annual Banquet - After some research we decided to take the idea of Regal Ranch to the general membership.
- 3) Treasurer's Report - Everything is looking good. We have been working below our scheduled cost for several months now.

Under "New Business" we discussed three topics:

- 1) Novice Class - Dave reported that we have 13 enthusiastic students in the class. He also wanted to thank Stu (WB5IGG) Lamkin and Lee (KA5WJB) Shull for helping out with the classes.
- 2) Programs - Greg Lefebvre let us know that the October program was to be soldering, and the November program was to be on nutrition.
- 3) Carl stated that he would like to start a CW practice net on HF. If anyone has any questions or comments on when and where the net should take place, let Carl know.

Our next Board Meeting is in November 4th at 7:30 at the Missouri City Fire Station. I hope to see you all there!

73, Suzanne King (KB5BAY)

ARRL PETITIONS FOR EARLY ENTRY TO 17-METER BAND

The ARRL has requested the FCC issue an Order permitting immediate interim use of 17 meters, 18.068-18.168 MHz, by US radio amateurs on a secondary, non-interference basis.

The ARRL said that US amateurs have been waiting for the opportunity to use the band since the results of the 1979 WARC were announced nearly 10 years ago. The rapid rise in the current sunspot cycle is "providing significant opportunities for worldwide communications in the 17-meter band" and amateur interest in using this band is high.

The FCC has already reallocated the band to the Amateur Radio Service on a primary, exclusive basis, effective July 1, 1989. Until that time, the band remains an alternative allocation to the Fixed Service and some government stations are still operating there. FCC has initiated PR Docket 88-467 to develop permanent rules for amateur use of the band.

In support of its request, the ARRL said that the large number of amateurs from more than 60 other countries already operating on 17 meters has shown that immediate US amateur operation "would cause no significant additional interference" to the few, if any, remaining government stations still using the band.

The ARRL also argued that "failure to provide early access to the band will preclude propagation studies covering an entire sunspot cycle, thus deferring research for a great number of years. As each sunspot cycle is unique, some work would be precluded entirely unless immediate access to the band is permitted."

According to the ARRL request, amateurs would follow the FCC suggested band plan of 18.068-18.110 MHz for digital and CW emissions, and 18.110-18.168 MHz for CW, phone, facsimile and television emissions. Furthermore, if deemed necessary by the FCC, the ARRL would not object to an interim power limitation of 200 watts output.

There is a precedent for amateur interim use of a new band. In 1982, prior to the ratification of the WARC-79 treaty by the US, the FCC issued an Order permitting interim amateur use of the 10.100-10.150 MHz band.

To be continued....

Finns, and Russians volunteered, and Amundsen was ready to start. "We imagine you are near the north coast of Svalbard, between the 15 and 16 meridian," wired the *City of Milan*. "We are organizing help. Trust us." Biagi received this message, but the search was not going to be in the right area. Biagi believed his signals were "skipping," but the others felt the *City of Milan* operators were not listening. The San Paolo relay-station bulletins told nothing of rescue attempts, and Biagi heard wild theories of what had happened.

The ice continued to drift eastward. By the fifth day the radio was regarded by several as useless. Every two hours Biagi continued the SOS, then listened, but with no results. The *City of Milan* continued to transmit personal telegrams and newspaper reports. Captain Romagna was certain Biagi was dead and said, "Biagi leaned out the porthole. The radio propellers came loose and cut off his head." The last contact was just before the crash, 10:30 A.M., May 25th. They had heard nothing since.

The reserve operator, Pedretti, continued to monitor intently during the times when the *City of Milan* wasn't transmitting to San Paolo. He heard the word "ITALIA" on May 29th, and copied, "Reply via IDO 32 K."

Pedretti pleaded with chief operator Baccarani to believe that the *Italia* had called. "Ido" was the code word for San Paolo; "32" the airship's wavelength; "K" meant hurry up, answer us. Baccarani said it wasn't possible; he had heard Magadiscio. Baccarani was so certain the captain was right that he did not check with Magadiscio to see if they had transmitted.

Some of the survivors on the ice wanted to build a sled and start marching toward what they hoped would be safety. There were only four who could possibly do so, and one was Biagi. For Biagi to leave would mean the loss of any radio contact. After careful discussion, Biagi decided to stay with the radio, although at first he thought the march would be fastest.

The most important events in the survivors' lives were the 9 o'clock news bulletin from San Paolo, and the evening meal. The ice continued to drift eastward and Biagi continued

his routine of SOS every two hours, listening, and praying the batteries would not fail in the cold.

Three survivors prepared to march. They requested the radio not be used for twenty or twenty-five days so the batteries would be saved and give them time to get help and a boat as near as possible. The marchers would make less than six miles on any given day.

Not using the radio was out of the question. Nobile wrote a message in Italian and French and gave it to Biagi with instructions to transmit the message for one full hour every day. June



3rd, the tenth day on the ice pack, found the cold getting worse, the pack drifting faster. Despondency began to set in. Biagi began to lose faith in his radio. He listened hourly.

Suddenly Biagi came alive with a shout, "They've heard us!" He wrote as fast as his cold, stiff fingers would permit, and read aloud, "The Soviet Embassy has informed the Italian government..."

A Russian farmer named Schmidt, in Archangel, had heard bits and pieces of the June 3 SOS. While there was joy on the ice floe, there were few outside the Soviet Union who believed the Russian operator had heard the *Italia*, and those at King's Bay said it was a hoax.

It was the 14th day on the ice, and Biagi transmitted and copied a bulletin. An American Radio Amateur in-

tercepted a radiogram. "No shelter except remains *Italia* which crashed against mountain," read the false report. A position near the 85th parallel in the Arctic Ocean was given. This hoax made Schmidt's true report less acceptable.

Moments later, Biagi copied a newspaper dispatch from the *City of Milan*. That morning, a supply ship had heard fragments of "SOS FRANCESCO," and believed it to be from the *Italia*. Biagi let out a scream of delight, "They ran 'Foy'n' and 'circa' together and mistook it for Francesco! They heard us!" The dispatch continued, "The Italian officials feel the message is a fabrication." Morale on the ice floe dropped to a new low.

Biagi continued to listen. The next day a new message was transmitted, "SOS ITALIA Nobile longitude twenty-eight degrees east, about twenty miles northeast coast Spitsbergen." The day passed.

Pages of news were transmitted in the evening, and then "ITALIA ITALIA" brought Biagi to life. "The *City of Milan* heard you clearly this morning. Coordinates received. Give Biagi's registration number." Everyone waited for the acknowledgment of Biagi's reply.

The 16th day brought further hope with a message from the *City of Milan*. "Be ready to make smoke signal. Airplanes will..." and the message was lost in the fading and noise of arctic communications "white water."

Biagi transmitted that they would send up smoke and Very lights, gave the local weather conditions, a request for provisions, as well as what they believed would be the position of the three men who were marching on the pack. His steady CW added, "The batteries will run out shortly but we can still receive." Nobile radioed for medical equipment, a collapsible boat, and advised that a hydroplane be sent. The *City of Milan* cut them off. "You better save batteries. Our business to speed up rescue work. Three Swedish planes on way. Ship *Hobby* near Baffin Island blocked in ice. Russians preparing icebreaker. Dog teams to meet three marching for Cape North."

The 18th day brought a report of seven different groups moving toward their rescue. It was announced that

RESULTS OF THE OCT. 11TH EXAM:

by: Harold Parker, NDSF

B-VARC again sponsored the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, October 11, 1988 at Strake Jesuit in Houston.

The U.E. Team and Assistants:

Henry Morrison, WSRIY
Jim Arnold, WSRNK
Arvin Gardner, AASGU
Stu Lamkin, WBSIGG
Harold Parker, NDSF

A total of twenty (21) exams were administered during the evening to nine (9) applicants. Of those, one is a new Novice and five (5) upgraded their license with a total of ten (10) elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was forty-eight (48) percent.

Congratulations to all the following who upgraded and passed exams:

Thomas Adkins, KA5AYA - Advanced
Roger Berry, KB5DFR - Advanced
Henry Engelhardt, KB5DIQ - Technician
Bill Hickox, K5BDZ - Extra
Russell Severence - Novice
Bill Todd-Brown, NSMPN - Advanced

Many thanks to the Team Members and Assistants for all their time and efforts that contribute to the success of the program. My special thanks to Henry, WSRIY who has been handling the exams in my absence while I attend a Seminar. We again thank Vincent, WA5ETS, and everyone at Strake Jesuit for providing us with the excellent classroom facilities each month for the exams.

**B-VARC RAG CHEW NET
CHECK-INS**

3.960 MHZ 8:30PM WEDNESDAY

COMPILED BY AL MATTIS N5AFV

SEPTEMBER 29, 1988

WB5IGG NCS, WA5OEN, KE5SR

OCTOBER 5, 1988

WB5IGG NCS, N5AFV, KE5SR,
WN5TEN

OCTOBER 12, 1988

WB5IGG NCS, WN5TEN, KE5SR,
N5AFV, WN5A, N5EXK, K5BDZ/AE

OCTOBER 19, 1988

WB5IGG NCS, WN5TEN, KE5SR,
N5AFV, WN5A

ANNUAL BANQUET

This year's banquet will be held at Regal Ranch. We will have a "Go-Western" theme, but you don't have to dress up to come. We will have chicken and beef fajitas to eat. There will be unlimited cokes, coffee, beer and wine.

I will be sending out invitations and reply's soon. On that flyer there will be the time, cost and directions.

I am excited and I know it will be fun! I hope everyone will come! If there are any questions or comments, call me at 270-4188. If I'm not there my machine will answer.

73. Suzanne King (KB5BAY)

NEW EQUIPMENT REVIEWS

HEATHKIT VHF/UHF TRANSCEIVER

by: Irv Smith, KB5EXM

Heath/Zenith's new entry in the hand-held field is the Model HW 24HT Dual-Band Handitalkie. It sells out of their catalog (see coupon in QST ad's) for about \$425 including a standard rechargeable battery pack, a wall charger and an extra battery shell which may be loaded with six AA batteries.

Options include longer-life and -power batteries; drop-in and cigarette-lighter chargers, speaker mike and a bracket to hold the unit upright next to your car's window. I found the bracket very useful when travelling, plugging in only the microphone portion of the speaker mike while monitoring on the HT's built-in speaker (which has good tone).

The unit seems identical in size to Yaesu's. It has slip-on battery packs and an BNC connector for the rubber-duck antenna. Note that it is not a kit, being offered only in assembled form. I understand it is made by Standard Radio. The instruction manual is very good; unusual for something printed in Japan!

The standard VHF and UHF bands are covered. I haven't yet found a keyboard-entry means of extending the range, and don't know if simple hardware modifications can be made to do this. Power is 400 mW on "low" and 3.0 to 5.0 Watts on "high" depending on the input power source. Battery life seems

reasonable, although I don't have a good comparison for my mix of listening and talking. Power consumption is 40 mA unscelched (10 mA in a 3:1 battery-save mode); 150 mA unscelched, and from 350 mA on "low" transmit to 1300 mA at the most powerful output.

There are two VFO's and 20 memories. VHF and UHF frequencies may be intermixed in these, although subject to the limitation that only four sets of repeater offset and tone frequency can be stored. (It would have been better if each of the 20 memories could have stored its own unique offset and tone.) The tone generator is built in as standard equipment, and the transceiver can be made to break squelch only on receipt of a tone in addition to the normal use of sending a tone to access a given repeater.

Numerous scanning options are available, as are many other "bells and whistles" on the control panel.

It does, of course, have a DTMF function.

I took the unit on a recent vacation to New England, and had good luck talking to local hams on their repeaters. From my home in Missouri City (several miles south of the Central Fire Station), I can hit both the 145.47 and 442.5 machines.

So far, I am quite pleased with the Heath transceiver, and I would recommend its purchase to other hams.

Special thanks to Bill Walker Royalton District Manager of Warner Cable, for donating the use of their copier and supplies for printing the newsletter.

B-VARC 1988 ACTIVITY ROSTER

COMPILED BY AL MATTIS N5AFV

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. MOTHER'S DAY	H. 10K RODEO RUN
I. FIELD DAY	J. HULL AIR SHOW
K. ZOO RUN	L. GAAC 20K

Albrecht, Carl	KASQLQ	J, L
Borg, Gerry	N5APW	D, I
Cheek, Ralph	KBSQNT	D, E, I, L
Creel, Fred	N5YLB	I N5LYB
Dessens, Bill	N5KXU	I
Dilliard, Ray	WASF	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, L
Dyer, Dave	AA56A	B, D, F, G, I, K, L
Dyer, Debbie	KB5GUY	I, K, L
Dyer, Karla	N5LGS	B, C, D, F, G, I, K, L
Edwards, Glenn	WB4LZG	I, J, K, L
Edwards, Melanie		L
Eason, Mike	N5KRU	B, I
Getz, Andy	KB5EYP	D, G
Gottlieb, Steve	WASOEN	G, J
Hagerman, Dick	WB5SRN	A, D, L
Hammer, Cindy	N5LXE	B, D, F, G, I
Hammer, Dave	WJ5B	B, D, F, I
Harris, Ron	N5MKO	F, I
Harwell, Ed	N5WVX	D, G
Jolly, George	ND5E	H
Jolly, Kathy	KASWHK	H
Kemp, Bill	K65CB	D, I
King, Suzanne	KBSBAY	D, G, I, K, L
Larkin, Stu	WB5IGG	A
Lance, Dave	KB5EYK	B, C, D, I
Lance, Lee	KB5EST	B, I
Mattis, Allen	N5AFV	B, C, G, J, L
Meyer, Rick	KASYSL	I
Miles, Bud	N5MFD	B, D, I
Miles, Stephen	N5MBN	B, D, I
Morrison, Henry	WSRIY	E, I
Nance, Herb	N5GZW	D, G, I
Odua, Andy	KE5RU	I
Parker, Harold	ND5F	A
Pollard, Randy	AK5G	I, J, K, L
Ricketts, Robert	NSJKD	I
Ross, Joe	AA5BD	D, I
Smith, Irv	KB5EXM	D, G, I
Van DeMark, Jack	WNSA	D, G, I, J, K
Whitehurst, Tom	KCSUN	F
Yates, Laura	KAS6M	I
Yates, Steve	KASDUU	I

PLEASE REPORT ADDITIONS AND
CORRECTIONS TO N5AFV

From the ARRL LETTER
September 29, 1988
Volume 7, No. 19

AMATEUR RADIO RESPONDS TO HURRICANE GILBERT

Amateur Radio emergency networks were in full swing beginning the week of September 11 as Hurricane Gilbert swept through the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico toward the eastern coast of Mexico and Texas. The Hurricane Watch Net (14.325 MHz) monitored the progress of the storm, and provided the latest coordinates to those radio amateurs in the affected area. N4EHW served as liaison with the National Hurricane Center in Florida, and reports coming from Amateur Radio stations in the path of Gilbert were relayed to the Hurricane Center by this and other liaison stations. KØIND served many hours as Net Control of the Hurricane Watch Net.

On Tuesday, September 13, the FCC Miami's Field Office designated two frequencies, 14.275 and 14.325 MHz, as emergency frequencies for hurricane message traffic on behalf of the National Hurricane Center. These nets were already handling emergency traffic with Amateur Radio stations in Jamaica. K1MAN coordinated net activities on 14.275, and The Friendly Caribus Connection Net on 14.283, with WA2OLE, also served as a major net for health and welfare messages. A net on 14.285, headed by NØEZT, also served as a focal point for many health and welfare inquiries.

Shortly after Gilbert hit Jamaica, it was clear that Amateur Radio was a vital communications link. First priority was given to outgoing traffic coming from the few Amateur Radio stations on

Jamaica (6Y5AL, 6Y5EE, 6Y5EPS, 6Y5MB, 6Y5MC, 6Y5SG, K2BPP/6Y5 among others). Meanwhile, service agencies such as the Red Cross and the Salvation Army geared up to provide emergency aid to the stricken areas. Amateur Radio carried emergency related messages for countless agencies and hospitals providing assistance. In communities around the US, the National Traffic System responded to hundreds of inquiring families by routing health and welfare messages to the affected area. In spite of health and welfare traffic being the lowest priority going into the area, and due to the unusual amount of inquiries involved and the difficulty of servicing, a large percentage of responses were promptly received by families and loved ones stateside.

The public service provided by Amateur Radio continues as the people and places affected by Hurricane Gilbert begin to recover and rebuild.

From Roland KB5EQH....

Thanks go to Robert Torres KB5EZQ for his help in assembling the BVARC Newsletter these past few months, Thanks Robert.

From Greg KB5PE....

On Saturday December 3, 1988 there will be a fox hunt held at Bear Creek beginning at 8:30 Am. If you need more details about the hunt, please give me a call. My number is 537-3839 at work and 890-7892 at home.

ANTENNA HINT . . . DACRON ROPE

From The Amateur Radio Guide

Synthetic Textiles makes Dacron rope, which I have used for more than eight years. I have two 96 foot verticals which are made of light-weight 3 and 4 inch irrigation pipe. The verticals are not very stiff, so they will not support much weight (steel guy wires.) I use the Dacron rope to guy these verticals.

When I first put up the verticals, I used yellow polypropylene rope. However, after a year it had to be replaced due to rapid deterioration. I next used nylon, which was fine until it got wet, then it would stretch greatly. After our first winter storm, the verticals truly looked like wet noodles. Finally, I started checking the local marine supply stores. I figured that they had to have something that worked for them since their equipment is constantly exposed to the sun and sea. There, I found the Dacron rope made by Synthetic Textiles. So for a third time I replaced the guy wires, this time with white Dacron rope. This solved most of the above problems. However, it too deteriorated after 3 to 4 years.

But wait, guess what Synthetic Textiles makes now! UV protected black doublebraided Dacron rope. According to them, it would last 3 to 4 times longer than the white Dacron.

The black Dacron rope comes in three sizes: 3/32, 3/16 and 5/16 inch with a tensile strength of approximately 260, 770 and 1790 pounds respectively. Stretch is supposed to be less than 5% of length. Cost for 1000 feet of each, including shipping and handling, is 3/32" for \$30; 3/16" for \$65; 5/16" for \$100 (two 500' spools.) They also supply an electric hot knife (110 volts for \$12.) I use a pair of sharp wire cutters and a match flame to seal the ends.

The people at Synthetic Textiles are very friendly and glad to help or answer questions. I've been very pleased with their product and service.

Synthetic Textiles, Inc.
2472 Eastman Avenue, Bldg 21-22
Ventura, CA 93003

ALUMINUM SOLDER

by Tom, K0FJN, via Charro

You CAN solder Aluminum! Do it this way. At the solder location on the aluminum, place a drop of motor oil. Next, take a sharp-pointed tool (a pocket knife works well) and thoroughly "scratch up" the surface. Do not wipe off the oil. Now take your soldering tool, heat the spot and apply a good rosin core solder (just like soldering copper.) You will find the solder will adhere completely - both physically and electrically. Works great for making connections to an aluminum chassis. Try it! You'll be surprised.

T-HUNT ANTENNA

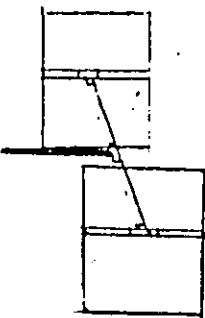
From "THE STRUCTURE", Victor Valley ARC

Here is the information on a "Catch-A-Bunny," super-duper, cheap, T-hunting wand.

MATERIAL LIST

- 1 each 10' piece of Schedule 40 PVC pipe (3/4" works well)
- 3 each PVC "T's" to fit the pipe
- 180" of #10 bare wire (15' for those unable to translate 180")
- 1 each In-Line crimp connector
- 2 each screw terminal crimp connectors
- 1 length of coax (your choice)
- 1 coax connector (also your choice, but it's a good idea for it to fit your radio)
- 2 each #8 sheet metal screws

Cut the PVC into two pieces 8 3/4" and into four 11" pieces. The remaining piece will be used for a handle.
Cut the wire into 88" and 84 1/2" pieces. The 88" piece will be the reflector (.22" per side) and the other piece will be the driven element (21 1/8" per side). You can figure out the rest for yourself. The finished product should look like the one below.



NOTICE

in MTDH A.R.C. Informer, Bill, N4WF, Editor
VIA Rat's Tale, Ben, KA4HLJ, Editor

WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS IS AN AMATEUR RADIO STATION LICENSED AS BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC). BEFORE YOU ASK ANY QUESTIONS, HERE ARE THE ANSWERS.

1) The total cost of this equipment can not be discussed here as it creates marital conflicts!

2) No, I can not send a message to your brother in Hong Kong, I suggest you call Western Union.

3) This is strictly a hobby, I do not have the facilities or the time to fix TV sets, radios, or Hi-Fi's. I suggest you call a repairman.

4) Yes, the antenna in the back yard is essential to the operation of the equipment.

5) The farthest station I have contacted has been in the Ubangiland.

6) The cards on the wall are called QSL cards. They are confirmations of contacts made with other stations.

7) Oh, NO!!! Never does this station equipment interfere with television reception.

FURTHERMORE: If you are invited to speak into the microphone, please observe the following rules:

- 1) Speak in a low and soothing tone.
- 2) Do not disagree with me in any manner.

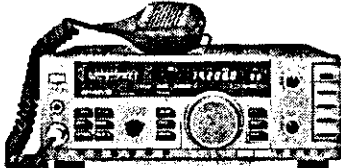
3) Say no curse words, turn any knobs, sit on the equipment, etc., as I have lost several visitors by ELECTROCUTION in the past few months.

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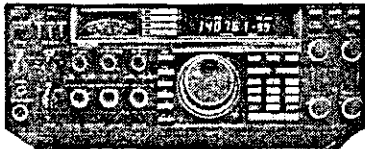
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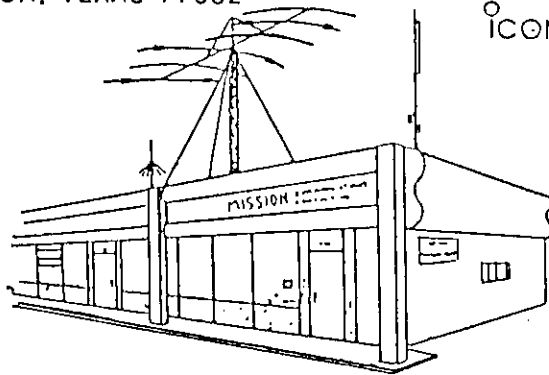
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I'M GLAD FIELD DAY IS OVER,



by K4KP