



B-VARC BULLETIN

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

Editor-in-Chief: Roland Torres, KB5EQH 622-7810 (0700-1600 hrs)

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 that offers examinations in all levels of HAM licenses.

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

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April 1990

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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



Allen Mattis N5AFV
5314 Wigton
Houston, TX 77096

B-VARC MEETING SCHEDULE	
Thurs, April 12 7:30 pm	General Meeting Missouri City Fire Station Program: ARRL Tom Comstock (NSTC)
Thurs, May 3 7:30 pm	Board Meeting Missouri City Fire Station

B-VARC CALENDAR: APRIL 1990

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>HOUSTON AREA V.E. EXAM INFO: STU (MBS1GG) 713-777-3345</p>	<p>FUTURE B-VARC & PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS: MAY 5: BIKE RIDE - WESTSIDE (WA5F) JUNE 23: FIELD DAY - BEAR CREEK PARK AUGUST: ECONOMIC SUMMIT SPEC EVENT: STATION - KK&W</p>			<p>FUTURE MEETINGS: MAY 3: BOARD MAY 10: GENERAL DON BUSICK NEW EQUIPMENT</p>	<p>NOTE: News meet weekly even if not shown</p>	<p>Please send information and corrections to Roland (KSECH), 652-7810</p>
<p>1 HARRIS COUNTY RACES 1900 hrs 146.94</p>	<p>2 ARES B-VARC NET 2000 hrs 2100 hrs 147.30 145.47 NOVICE CLASS</p>	<p>3 10 X SHOT AMSAT 2000hrs 2200 hrs 28.488 145.45 EXPERIMENTERS NET 1900 hrs, 442.5</p>	<p>4 B-VARC C.W. CODE RAG-CHEW PRACTICE 2000 hrs 2030 hrs 3.960 147.32 (Busy? +3 KHz)</p>	<p>5 BOARD MEETING 1930 hrs M.C. FIRE STATION #1 (KEY MAP 570-T)</p>	<p>6 LUNCH BUNCH MOOSE'S 6818 CHETWOOD TALK IN: 442.5 (PL 123)</p>	<p>7 C.W. B-VARC BREAKFAST 2030 hr 0730 hrs DENNY'S 147.32 SHARPSTOWN LEPC - FLUOR BLDG KASGYG</p>
<p>8 HARRIS COUNTY RACES 1900 hrs 146.94</p>	<p>9 ARES B-VARC NET 2000 hrs 2100 hrs 147.30 145.47 NOVICE CLASS</p>	<p>10 V.E. EXAMS 1900 hrs, STRAKE JESUIT STU (MBS1GG), 777-3345 EXPERIMENTERS NET 1900 hrs, 442.5</p>	<p>11 B-VARC C.W. CODE RAG-CHEW PRACTICE 2000 hrs 2030 hrs 3.960 147.32 (Busy? +3 KHz)</p>	<p>12 GENERAL MEETING 1930 hrs @ MC FS #1 PROGRAM: TOM COMSTOCK ARRL LIAISON SUPPER BEFORE: BBQ PLACE</p>	<p>13 LUNCH BUNCH EL FENIX GALLERIA TALK IN: 442.5 (PL 123)</p>	<p>14 C.W. B-VARC BREAKFAST 2030 hr 0730 hrs DENNY'S 147.32 SHARPSTOWN</p>
<p>15 HARRIS COUNTY RACES 1900 hrs 146.94</p>	<p>16 ARES B-VARC NET 2000 hrs 2100 hrs 147.30 145.47 NOVICE CLASS</p>	<p>17 10 X SHOT AMSAT 2000hrs 2200 hrs 28.488 145.45 EXPERIMENTERS NET 1900 hrs, 442.5</p>	<p>18 B-VARC C.W. CODE RAG-CHEW PRACTICE 2000 hrs 2030 hrs 3.960 147.32 (Busy? +3 KHz)</p>	<p>19 WEST-SIDE SOCIAL 1900 HRS @ BEAR CREEK OPTIONAL DINNER @ 1815 LUBY'S: CLAY & HWY 6</p>	<p>20 LUNCH BUNCH CHAMPS PINCIMONT & 290 TALK IN: 442.5 (PL 123)</p>	<p>21 C.W. B-VARC BREAKFAST 2030 hr 0730 hrs (b.d.) 147.32 MS-150 TOUR: WASH SIDEWALK SALE ?</p>
<p>22 HARRIS COUNTY RACES 1900 hrs 146.94 MS-150 TOUR WASH</p>	<p>23 ARES B-VARC NET 2000 hrs 2100 hrs 147.30 145.47 NOVICE CLASS</p>	<p>24 10 X SHOT AMSAT 2000hrs 2200 hrs 28.488 145.45 EXPERIMENTERS NET 1900 hrs, 442.5</p>	<p>25 B-VARC C.W. CODE RAG-CHEW PRACTICE 2000 hrs 2030 hrs 3.960 147.32 (Busy? +3 KHz)</p>	<p>26 WEST-SIDE SOCIAL 1900 HRS @ BEAR CREEK OPTIONAL DINNER @ 1815 LUBY'S: CLAY & HWY 6</p>	<p>27 LUNCH BUNCH RYAN'S 34TH & 290 TALK IN: 442.5 (PL 123)</p>	<p>28 C.W. B-VARC BREAKFAST 2030 hr 0730 hrs DENNY'S 147.32 SHARPSTOWN</p>

NOTES FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT
by Al Mattis NSAFV

Greetings to you again. I hope all of you are enjoying the beautiful weather we have been having. It is a good time to do antenna work; the hot, humid days of summer will soon be upon us, and outdoor work will become much less pleasant.

At last month's meeting, it was a pleasure for me to recognize those B-VARC members who checked in to the special session of the B-VARC Rag Chew Net held on January 17, 1990. This net marked the 8th anniversary of the Rag Chew Net, and the 22 amateur radio operators who checked into the net were each awarded a special certificate of recognition. Former B-VARC member Mike Kana, KASWOT, deserves credit for suggesting use of a certificate to commemorate the occasion. Mike is a regular check-in to the net, and now lives in Austin.

During March, B-VARC members participated in two public service events. Communications were provided for two fun runs, the Woman's Hospital 5K and the Azalea Run 5K. Any B-VARC members interested in participating in public service events should contact the club's public service event chairperson, Ray Dillard, W5SF. The B-VARC Board of Directors has already approved two bike tours for future public service events, one in April and one in May.

Other future activities are also in the works. The next B-VARC transmitter hunt has been tentatively scheduled for May 19th. Robert Ricketts, N5JKD, will chair this event. Jack Van Demark, W5SA, and his committee are busy making plans for this year's Field Day. The club has reserved a pavilion at Bear Creek Park, and the event should be similar to last year, but hopefully without the rain.

B-VARC keeps setting new records. Glenn Edwards, WB4LZG, reports that instead of getting smaller, our current novice class has actually grown in size during the first few weeks. Our general membership meetings each month continue to pack the room, as members enjoy the fine programs arranged by Bill Todd-Brown, N5MPN. And finally, Susan Edwards, K8SICQ, reports that B-VARC membership has reached 141, which is an all time high for the club. All B-VARC members should take pride in these achievements, as our club prospers during its 13th year of existence.

That's it for this month.

A Word From The President . . .

There is a lot going on with the folks at B-VARC these days. Committees are active, we are working Public Service events, we are participating in a big way toward the success of the Special Events Station at M. D. Anderson, our Novice Classes are continuing to grow, we have our Spring Picnic coming up in May plans are being made for Field Day during the last full weekend in June, we are having GREAT programs, including a very successful Sluagullion Feed in March, our Monday and Wednesday night Nets are very lively, and we are breaking all sorts of meeting attendance and membership records. I would say that this is not a bad start for 1990.

What makes it all happen is hard work and dedication of our members. Enthusiasm for our Club is at an all-time high, and we are getting well-deserved recognition by a lot of people. What a great time to be a member of B-VARC and share in this!

The directions and recipe in this issue by Bill, N5MPN, regarding the preparation and cooking of Sluagullion will give members some idea of the time and trouble it took for Bill (and don't forget his XYL!) to prepare this. Only one thing I see wrong: he only allowed for one "drink" break. Now, come on, Bill. Are you sure you didn't cheat a little or this? Anyway, Bill is to be commended for some excellent programs for our membership meetings.

The Special Events Station mentioned above will take place during one of the most important events ever to be held in Houston, the Economic Summit. B-VARC members are right in there, helping to form and participate in committees that will make it work. A great many of our members will share in the success of this, whether it is working on a committee or operating a station during the event. This will truly be an event to remember.

Be sure to put the Spring Picnic date of May 5th on your calendar.

73,

Bill, N5KXU

MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Well congratulations, Folks. We did it again! The February membership meeting on satellites broke all attendance records for a regular monthly meeting and that record was SHATTERED by the March 8, 1990 Sluagullion, Show and Tell and Socializing get-together.

Thanks to everyone for the "show and tell favorite gadgets." Some were thought provoking; some were absolutely fascinating; and some I still haven't figured out. The QSL card displays had many cards that made me drool. (I've got to spend more time on HF!)

To say "The Feed" was a success would be an understatement. Many people contributed to that success. Before I name them, let me apologize beforehand, because I'm sure I will leave somebody out. I want to thank Vick, NSNAS, for the coffee; Bill, NSXXU, for the soft drinks; Jack, WN5A, for the French bread, bowls, spoons, napkins and condiments; Susan, KBSICD, and Glenn, WB4LZG, for the butter and the cheese cake (by the time I finished serving sluagullion, all the cheese cake was gone - that's not fair - I hope someone has a guilty conscience!); Harold, NDSF, for arranging the desserts and bringing his own "shocking pink" cake; Melvin, KB5ION, for the cake; Bill, WB5YDD, and Marge Clark for their cake.

Peg, my XYL, did all of the shopping for the sluagullion ingredients, spent 12 hours chopping vegetables, trimming fat off the meat and cubing it all. Then on the day of "The Cook" she spent from 7 AM until 3:30 PM as assistant cook. All very willingly, but the day after "The Feed", when the whole kitchen had to be scrapped down (I'm a messy cook), the romance went out of our marriage!

For those of you that are interested in numbers, 68 people had sluagullion, most by the bowl and a few by the cup. We served 46.5 quarts of sluagullion, 9 loaves of French bread, 60 cans of soft drinks, 45 cups of coffee, and there was only a portion of one cake left out of 4.

We will be having an Ice Cream Fest this summer. This is a chance for the rest of the members that were not involved in the "sluagullion feed" to show your skills at whipping up a freezer or two of home made ice cream. We will be needing approximately 10 gallons and would like to see some participation from other members than those named above. Contact Dick, N5DUT, at 530-0470. Dick has kindly consented to coordinate that soiree.

73,
Bill, NSMPN

APRIL MEETINGS

Do you know all of the services that are available to you by virtue of having a membership in the ARRL? Are you aware of the excellent and inexpensive insurance coverage on all of your equipment that will pay all (not depreciated value) of your declared amount in the event of a theft, lightning strike, fire or other mishap? How about legal service advice on deed restrictions? Legislative lobbying? FCC and WARC petitioning? QST Magazine, the ARRL Letter, ARRL Bulletin Service, Gateway, the ARRL Packet-Radio Newsletter and the Antenna Book, Antenna Compendium Volumes 1 and 2, Where to Start book, Handbook, license manuals, etc. etc. etc., are all prepared for you, the Ham, either new or old, inexperienced or experienced - there is a lot available for all levels of Hams.

We are privileged to have a representative of the ARRL coming into Houston expressly to address our Club on April 12, 1990, at 7:30 PM at the Missouri City Fire Station. Mr. Tom Comstock, N5TC, and his Bride promise to be one of the year's feature programs.

B-VARC now, as of this writing, has over 140 paid-up members (and still some non-paid attendees; to set an all time membership record; so, let's fill the Hall at the April meeting to show Tom that we appreciate his effort.

73,
Bill, NSMPN

Solatter....

Look for a review of the Radio Shack 10M rig that was submitted by Scott Penderson KE9NB/5 for publication in this month's newsletter. Scott has recently moved here from Chicago. I wish to say thanks to Scott for the article and welcome him to join B-VARC.

Just a reminder....

If you will be submitting an article for publication in the newsletter, I ask that it be typed and "camera ready". The dead line for articles will be the 22nd of each month. Submitting articles with compressed print will allow more items to be published in the limited space we have.

Roland KE5EQH
Editor

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
 1990 PUBLIC SERVICE HONOR ROLL
 compiled by Allen Mattis NSAFV

A. HOUSTON TENNECO MARATHON B. WOMAN'S HOSPITAL 5K
 C. AZALEA RUN 5K

Abbott, Brenson	KF5VZ	A
Borg, Gerry	NSAPW	A
Cheek, Ralph	KBSDNT	A,B
Dessens, Bill	NSKXU	C
Dillard, Ray	WASF	A,B,C
Dyer, Karla	NSL6S	A
Edwards, Glenn	WB4LZG	A
Edwards, Melanie	KBSKLN	A
Edwards, Susan	KBSICO	A
Freedenberg, Henry	NSHF	A
Gordon, Hy	NCSA	A
Gordon, Irene	NSAYX	A
Hagerman, Dick	WB5SRN	A
Hardy, Nick	NSPRP	B,C
Jacobs, Bradley	KBSJON	A
Jacobs, Nathan	KBSKTZ	A
Jacobs, Travis	NSDON	A
Kruse, Dick	NSOUT	C
Larkin, Stu	WB5IG6	A
Lay, Michael	NSPTN	B
Mattis, Allen	NSAFV	A
Morrison, Henry	WSRIY	A
Nance, Herb	NSGZM	A
Parker, Harold	NDSF	A
Ricketts, Robert	NSJKD	A
Sinibaldi, Dawn	KBSLDJ	B,C
Van Demark, Jack	WNSA	A
Wade, Don	WB5IBT	A
Warden, Mike	WB3HZP	A

PLEASE REPORT CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO NSAFV

B-VARC RAG CHEW NET CHECK-INS
 3.960 MHZ 8:00PM WEDNESDAY
 compiled by Allen Mattis NSAFV

FEBRUARY 21, 1990

NSMPN NCS, AA50A, AK5G, KSCDH, KBSICO,
 KBSION, NSNVV, NSPRC, WB4LZG, WB5IG6,
 WB5SRN, WJ5B, KA5DUU, KASWJB, AA5PF

FEBRUARY 28, 1990

NSAFV NCS, NSMPN, AA50A, K6SKV, WSRNK,
 WB5IG6, WJ5B, AA5LF, AK5G, WB5SRN,
 NSILI, KBSDNT, WB4LZG, KBSICO, KBSKLN

MARCH 7, 1990

NSAFV NCS, WSRNK, KASWOT, KC5AC, KA5DUU,
 NSMPN, NSPRC, AA50A, WB5IG6, NSKXU, K6SKV,
 WB5SRN, KBSION, AA5LF AA5LF

MARCH 14, 1990

NSAFV NCS, WJ5B, NSMPN, K6SKV, AA5PF,
 WB5IG6, NSKXU, KA5DUU, KBSION, WB5SRN,
 AK5G, AA5LF, WB4LZG, KBSICO

RESULTS OF MARCH 13TH EXAM:

by: Harold Parker, NDSF

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, March 13, 1990 at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

The V.E. Team and Assistants:

Mike Scism, WV5M
 Carl Albrecht, AA5JW
 Cass Germany, K65IT
 Stu Larkin, WB5IG6
 Harold Parker, NDSF

A total of seventeen (17) exams were administered during the evening to nine (9) applicants. One (1) unlicensed candidate received his new Novice License. Six (6) other candidates upgraded their licenses with a total of thirteen (13) elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was seventy-seven (77%) percent.

Congratulations to all the following who upgraded and/or passed exams:

David Bauer, KB5GER - General
 Mark Chambers - Technician
 Bob Chmielewski, N5PJI - Element 3B
 John LaRue, KB5LEJ - Technician
 Dennis Mahar - Novice
 Michael O'Toole, KC6FKZ - Technician
 Win Rister, K14EU - Element 1C
 John Summerfield, N5PWJ - Advanced
 Rex West, KB5LJY - Technician

Many thanks to all the Team Members and Assistants who volunteer their valuable time and effort each month.

All of us at B-VARC again thank Vincent, WA5ETS, and everyone at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

ATTENDANCE ROSTER

B-VARC GENERAL MEETINGS

	D	F	M
	E	E	A
	C	B	R
			X
			X
	X		
	X		
		X	
	X		X
			X
			X
	X		
TA 2 A			X
WN 5 A	X	X	X
N 5 AFV	X		X
N 5 APW		X	
WJ 5 B			X
AA 5 BD			X
K 5 BDZ			X
ND 5 C	X		
WB 1 CCH	X		X
K 5 CNU		X	
K 5 DIY		X	
KA 5 DKS		X	
WD 5 DRB			X
KB 5 EIN	X		
WA 5 ETS		X	X
KB 5 EXM	X	X	X
ND 5 F	X	X	X
WA 5 F	X		
K 5 FPK	X		
N 5 FVM		X	
AK 5 G	X	X	
AA 5 GA	X		
KB 5 GUY	X		
N 5 GZW		X	X
WB 5 IBT		X	
KB 5 ICO	X	X	X
WB 5 IGG	X	X	X
WB 5 IOC			X
KB 5 ION		X	X
N 5 JKD			X
KB 5 JMI	X		X
KB 5 JOS		X	
AA 5 JW	X	X	X
KB 5 JWQ		X	
N 5 JXO		X	
KB 5 KJS	X		
N 4 KKC		X	
KB 5 KLY	X	X	X
KB 5 KMN		X	
KB 5 KNC	X		
KG 5 KV	X	X	
N 5 KXU	X	X	X
WD 5 L	X	X	X
K 5 LBU	X		
KB 5 LDJ	X	X	X
AA 5 LF		X	X

		FEB	MAR
		C	R
KB 5 LFU	ROGER POKLADNIK	X	X
N 5 LGS	KARLA DYER	X	
N 5 LKJ	ALLAN FOX		X
N 5 LRC	DOUGLAS EGGLESTON	X	
K 5 LTM	GREG LEFEBVRE	X	X
WB 4 LZG	GLENN EDWARDS		X
VW 5 M	MIKE SCHISM		X
N 5 MPN	BILL TODD-BROWN		X
N 5 NAS	VICK RICHARD		X
KE 9 NB	SCOOTER PEDERSON		X
N 5 NTO	DON BROWN		X
N 5 NVV	JULIUS DANZIGER		X
KA 5 NYI	MARK McGRATH		X
WD 5 NZF	DAVID		X
AA 5 OA	RANDY PUGH	X	X
WA 5 OEN	STEVE GOTTLIEB	X	X
N 5 OUT	DICK KRUSE	X	X
N 5 PAA	LARRY		X
WB 4 PGF	TERRY LEATHERLAND		X
N 5 PHL	RON SHORTHORSE	X	X
N 5 PHM	TIM STANLEY	X	X
N 5 PKW	BETH BROWN	X	X
N 5 PNX	EDDIE RUNNER		X
N 5 POH	FRANK BERNER	X	
N 5 PRP	NICK HARDY	X	X
N 5 PWH	BILL		X
KB 5 PXY	FLOYD FOX	X	X
WB 5 SHU	CLEM WINFORD		X
WB 5 SRN	DICK HAGERMAN		X
KA 5 TUQ	DON SCHEXNAILDER	X	
KB 5 UE	TERRY		X
KF 5 VZ	BRENSON ABBOTT	X	
KA 5 WJB	LEE SHULL		X
W 5 MVX	ED HARWELL	X	X
WB 5 YDD	BILL CLARKE	X	X
KA 5 YSL	RICK MEYER		X
WA 5 ZIB	ANDY MacALLISTER	X	X

SPECIAL BULLETIN

B-VARC's 1990 Spring Picnic will be held again this year at Doug, KE5SR, and Marie Holley's estate just North of Richmond. The date and time is May 5, 1990. We will gather at about 12:00 noon and eat at about 1:30.

For directions on how to get there, go South on Hwy. 59 to the Hwy. 36 (Richmond) exit, right to Hwy. 90-A, turn left (West) for one block, right again on Hwy. 723. Go North and cross the Brazos River bridge, and turn left immediately after crossing the bridge onto Baker Road. Follow this road for about 1/2 mile and there will be signs posted. Talk-in will be on 145.47 KHz.

Wade, WN5TEN, will barbecue the chicken. Wade was unable to be at last year's picnic due to other family plans, and Vick, N5NAS, barbecued the chicken. It was a real hit.

Meal tickets will be the same cost as last year at \$3.50 per adult, \$1.50 for children 5 to 12, and no cost to children under 5. Someone on the Picnic Committee will be calling for volunteers to bring vegetables, salads, desserts, plates, spoons, forks, whatever. Each family should bring its own soft drinks.

We hope that the weather holds and we won't have any rain and very few ants - the things that always seem to invade picnic plans.

Doug and Marie have a beautiful place for a picnic and are delighted to have B-VARC again this year. Their generosity in having us is most certainly appreciated by all of us. Make plans to bring the family and guests, the frisbees, ball and glove, or other fun things, and enjoy this outing.

From Scott KE9NB...

Review of Radio Shack 10M Rig

Well, Cycle 23 is finally here. To those who weren't aware, this means lots of new activity on the higher bands like 10, 15, and 20 meters. With the advent of voice privileges on 10m, this seems to be a prime operating band for good DX as well as stateside contacts. To take advantage of these enhanced conditions, many companies are introducing small, single band, low power transceivers at a low price, hoping to catch many entry level amateurs.

One of these companies, Radio Shack, has introduced the HTX-100. Not much bigger than many CB radios on the market, it offers 25 watts on SSB or CW, and full band coverage from 28,000 to 29,6999. It measures 2 7/16" x 7 9/32" x 7 7/8" (HWD) and weighs 4 lbs. 3oz.

Straight out of the box, I noticed this wasn't some shabby equipment. The cabinet was very solid, and the controls didn't wobble. When the radio is powered up, (which I did within the first two minutes of breaking the seal,) I found all the controls to be working properly. The first thing you notice about operating this rig is it doesn't tune like a regular radio, it tunes across the band in 100 Hz steps. This may be awkward when tuning CW stations. Tuning is accomplished by moving the main knob, or pushing the up/down buttons on either the microphone or the front panel.

The controls on the front panel are an on/off/volume control, squelch, which works nicely on SSB, RF gain control/high-low power switch, an RTT with center detent, main tuning knob. A mode switch toggles between SSB and CW, a 500k button moves you up the band in 500 khz steps, a step button which toggles between 10khz, 1khz, and 100khz steps in all tuning modes, a memory recall button for memory operation, and a store button for writing frequencies to memory. There is also a monaural headphone jack, a noise blanker switch, a frequency lock switch, a tx/rx switch, an LED RF/signal strength meter and an LCD display with green backlight.

On the air, the HTX-100 got excellent reports on audio quality. Most stations said it was crystal clear and very easy to understand. In reception, the receiver was very sensitive, but lack of some filtering made copying an average signal difficult when located near another, more powerful station a few khz away. One feature that I have mixed reviews about is the automatic gain control. Under normal conditions, it works great when listening to stations of different signal strength. Very loud stations are crystal clear as the relative noise level drops to nothing. The problem arises, however, when copying a weak station located right next to a powerful station. The AGC automatically dials back the gain and effectively blanks out the weaker station. This would be fine if the AGC were defeatable, but it is not.

Tuning CW stations is a trick. In order to work a CW contact, you must zero-beat the other station, and then tune in the right sound using the RTT control. Also, the radio seems to lag when switching from TX to RX by about 1 second, which can get annoying after a while.

The noise blanker feature works wonders on ignition noise, but is little help with the Russian woodpecker, or band noise, for that matter.

When working on the band, I found that the 25 watts was

sufficient to hold conversations with any station I heard, and the excellent mike audio could only enhance that. One must realize, though, that with only 25 watts, you are immediately 6 decibels lower than anyone working with a 100 watt rig and similar antenna. The whole time I've used it, the massive heat sink never even got lukewarm. Word has it, though, that it uses a 75 watt Motorola finail, and the driver is adjustable. But remember that power output is directly related to how quickly the finail burns out.

A good, efficient antenna is a must. At home, a full size dipole or small beam can work wonders. When mobile, use the biggest antenna you can. For myself, I don't like drilling holes in my car (I already have a leaky sunroof). I use a 4 foot fiberglass CB whip I found at a truck-stop for five bucks and a 4" magnet mount. Reception was not as good, but as I drove from Chicago to here at Western Illinois University, I held many lengthy conversations with stations across the states, either base or mobile. The HTX-100 also was wonderful as I worked Costa Rica while mobile in Colorado. Unfortunately, I have picked up my roommate's habit of blowing up equipment, as the rig gave out one morning. As I powered it up, the volume came on full blast, regardless of where the control was set at. Fortunately, it is covered under warranty. I think it was the altitude, cold and humidity that caused it, or a quirk in some of the earlier models (I have number 92).

There have been many rumors surrounding this little radio. The biggest is that it is the same as the Uniden HR-2510. Not so. These two are very similar, and probably use most of the same components, but the HR-2510 has AM and FM capabilities, while the HTX-100 has ten memory channels. The HR-2510 does not have the transmit audio quality the HTX-100 does, as they tend to sound muddy on SSB in order to sound good on FM. The HR-2510 is also modifiable to go out of band, namely the 11-meter band. The CPU in the HTX-100 cannot be modified at all. I believe Radio Shack did this to thwart any future liability. Also, the carton, manual, and cabinet of the radio contain numerous warnings about illegal operation of amateur equipment without a valid license. The top cover of the radio has a large sticker that warns the owner that "it is illegal to transmit with this radio without a valid amateur radio license." Maybe Radio Shack executives foresee a problem with bootleggers?

All in all, the Radio Shack HTX-100 is an excellent performer on the band. With excellent audio, plenty of power, and a panel layout that is easy to use, this little rig will turn out to be a prominent performer on the band for years to come.

Scott Pederson KE9NB/S
2427 Vintage Cr.
Richmond, TX
77409

B. T.-B.'s Slumgullion

Slumgullion is made in many forms. The vegetables vary with availability and/or price. Many slumgullion cooks use different meats including beef, pork and lamb. The cuts of meats I use are for specific reasons, in specific proportions. My procedure for cooking slumgullion varies by one step from other slumgullion competition cooks, and that one step is what makes it have a unique flavor. Just a little different. After all, 99% of all slumgullions and stews contain essentially the same ingredients. This is the first time, since I developed this particular recipe over 30 years ago, that I have given it out. This is the same slumgullion served at the March B-VARC meeting.

It is not necessary to prepare slumgullion in huge batches. (This recipe will feed 120 normal people or 70 Hams.) Simply divide the ingredients by half, by three, by four or whatever amount you wish to make. Be advised that it freezes excellently if placed in an airtight container to prevent freezer burn. We frequently keep several pints for 2 or more years for comparison and quarts to gallons for thaw and warm-up when the "Herd" descends on us.

The utensils you will need are 4 in number and the size will be dependent upon the quantity you elect to make. But for this recipe, to duplicate the unique flavor, there is no short cut - you must use all 4. For the B-VARC Feed we used:

- 36 quart pot (referred to hereafter as "Big Pot.")
- 20 quart pot (referred to hereafter as "Water Pot.")
- 14 inch cast iron skillet (The Skillet.)
- 10 quart pot (The Barley Pot.)

Ingredients

- 26 lbs. of Round Steak cut one half inch thick (Beef)
- 8 lbs. of Shoulder Roast (Beef)
- 4 lbs. of Hot Roll Sausage (We use Jimmy Dean)
- 2 Large green peppers (1 lb.)(Needed more, but not at \$3.00/lb.)
- 2 lbs. of Corn (frozen or fresh)
- 2 lbs. of Peas (frozen or fresh)
- 2 lbs. of Cut Green Beans (frozen or fresh)
- 2 - 9 oz. packages of Italian Green Beans (frozen)
- 2 lbs. of Frozen Mixed Vegetables
- 5 lbs. of Celery (3 very large stalks)
- 4 lbs. of strong Yellow Onions
- 40 Cloves (medium to large) of Garlic
- 2 lbs. of Carrots
- 2 lbs. of Barley
- 4 lbs. of All Purpose Flour (plus salt, peppers & garlic salt)
- 3 - 15 oz. cans of Contadino Italian Seasoned Tomato Sauce
- 4 - 6 oz. cans Contadino Italian Seasoned Tomato Paste
- 2 large cans of Tomatoes (mashed with liquid)
- 4 - 2 1/4 oz. bottles of Instant Beef Bullion
- 4 rounded tsp. of Oraganoe (crushed leaves) or 2 tsp. powdered
- 4 flat tsp. of Marjoram (The Herb)
- 4 flat tsp. of Sweet Basil
- 4 flat tsp. of Thyme
- 12 large Bay Leaves

Directions

Dice - Fine - the peppers, celery, onions and carrots.

Mince - Very Fine - the garlic.

Remove all fat from the round steak and the shoulder roast and save the fat.

Cube the trimmed meat to 1/2 inch cubes (the round steak will stay intact, the shoulder will cook to shreds.) If partially frozen, the meat is much easier to cube.

Cooking

Put 1/2 of the chopped onions, 1/2 of the chopped celery, all of the chopped carrots, all of the chopped peppers and all of the corn, peas, green beans, Italian green beans and frozen mixed vegetables in the Big Pot and add enough water to cover, plus an inch. Use high heat. Then add the tomato sauce, tomato paste and mashed tomatoes. Rinse the cans with a little water and add that, too. Add the 4 bottles of Instant Beef Bullion, the oragencoe, marjoram, sweet basil, thyme and bay leaves to the Big Pot. (Note - you may want to add more or less of the herbs or spices to your taste.) Let all of this come to a rolling boil and then reduce the heat to medium.

Fill the Water Pot 1/2 full of water and put it on to boil. Now, the difference:

Put the skillet on and render down all of the beef fat completely; use high heat and a vent-a-hood fan or take the batteries out of your smoke detector. Save the rendered beef tallow in a heat-proof pitcher or container and eat or feed the "crispies" to the dog.

Take a clean paper bag or large plastic baggie and put in 1 cup of flour, 1 tsp. salt, 1/2 tsp. black pepper (fresh ground) and 1 tsp. of garlic salt. Hold top shut and shake well to mix. Add part of cubed meat, hold top, shake and completely and thoroughly coat the cubed meat in the bag. The cast iron skillet should be smoking hot with enough of the rendered beef tallow to well coat it, plus some more. Add the floured meat to the skillet.

While this batch is browning (very brown; stir occasionally with a wooden spoon to evenly brown), add more flour, salt fresh ground pepper and garlic salt to the bag and completely dredge more cubed meat. After the meat in the skillet has been well browned, remove it and put it into the Water Pot (not the Big Pot). Scrape the skillet with a turner or spatula and add the scrapings to the Water Pot. Add more rendered beef tallow to the skillet (keep it lightly smoking) and proceed to brown more dredged meat. Repeat until all cubed meat has been browned and put into the Water Pot. Stir the Water Pot occasionally so it won't stick.

Then take the sausage and break it up and place in skillet until uniformly light gray; don't completely cook; add directly to the Big Pot with a slotted spoon. Discard the sausage drippings.

The Water Pot should still be boiling. Carefully (by now, the Water Pot should be a rich brown gravy), remove all of the meat with a slotted spoon and put it in the Big Pot. Turn the heat as low as possible under the Water Pot. Stir occasionally to break up the sticking.

Then add the remaining celery, onions and all of the garlic to the Big Pot.

You have finished with the skillet. Follow the instructions on the barley boxes and cook the barley for 1 hour in the Barley Pot. The Big Pot should still be cooking and since the addition of the meat, will need occasional stirring and the Water Pot with the gravy should still be simmering and require occasional stirring. After the barley is completely cooked, drain it and add the drained barley to the Big Pot. Stir well for 5 or 10 minutes. Then ladle the gravy from the Water Pot into the Big Pot, stirring constantly. By now, you need a drink.

Cook 30 minutes more and then try it. If the shoulder roast has disintegrated and round steak cubes are tender, it's done; if not, continue cooking until it is. Adjust the seasoning to your taste - more spices or herbs, hot sauce, or whatever.

The recipe above had no additives other than listed. The bullion, as well as the seasoned flour, adds salt. By adding part of the celery and onions later, they don't cook to mush. By using the 2 kinds of beef, you have both the shredded (for flavor) and the cubed. The main difference in my slumgullion is the heavy coating, heavy browning and separate partial cooking of the meat in the Water Pot and the addition of the gravy to the Big Pot later, that gives it the distinctive taste.

I hope you try it and enjoy. Please let me know your reactions.

73,
Bill Todd-Brown, N5MPN

From Stu WBS166...

TWO NEW NOVICE COURSES SCHEDULED

Sam Neal NSAF of Cleveland, Texas has announced new Novice Class courses will hold their first class meetings in mid-April. They will be co-sponsored by the Sam Houston Amateur Radio Klub (SHARK) of Cleveland and the Houston Area Communicators of Humble. The SHARK course will hold its first class meeting on Tuesday, April 10 at 7 pm, and the Humble group's first class meeting will be at 7 pm the following night. Classes will run 2.5 hours.

Also, beginning Wednesday evening, August 1, a Novice to Technician upgrade, a 6 weeks series of classes, will hold its first meeting in Humble. For additional details on both courses, contact Sam Neal NSAF at 713-592-2297.

From Stu WBS166...

B-VARC SPRING '90 NOVICE COURSE GOING GREAT!

Our new Novice Course has gotten off to a fine start, and if it keeps up with the momentum shown during the first three class meetings, it'll be the most successful group of students we've ever had! Here are the students enrolled in this great course:

Abbott, William	Riordan, Charles
Bledsoe, Jim	Sahyoun, Rita
Bumgardner, John	Schluderberg, Harry
Carpenter, Terry	Sells, Ray
Carter, Linda	Sheffield, Cindy
Carter, Richard	Sheffield, John
Cooney, Dorothy	Skelton, Rosemary
Good, Chris	Stephens, Bill
Good, John	Stocker, Albert
Habib, Fred	Van Demark, Debbie
Levine, Harry	Vandevere, Doug
Marquez, A. Gerald	Wanzong, Vern
Moghnieh, Rami	Youmans, Cheryl
Moore, Janet	Youmans, Chris
Mott, Dick	Young, Mike
Mulder, Jim	
Muzquiz, John	
Pearce, Mary Ann	

WORLD ECONOMIC SUMMIT
HOUSTON - JULY 1990

On Thursday, March 29, 1990, the first meeting was held at the MD Anderson Hospital. Of course, we're not talking about World leaders here..... but we're talking about a joint venture between Houston area Amateur Radio Clubs to operate the MD Anderson Hospital amateur radio station which is on the 11th floor of the hospital during the Summit, between July 6th and 11th, 1990.

The meeting was very interesting indeed. This project has 2 co-Directors: Bill, our President - N5KXU and Tom - K5CNU. Five committees were established and a Chairperson or Co-Chairpersons were appointed. Obviously, these people alone cannot get the job accomplished, so we need YOUR help to be able to make this venture a success.

Let me tell you about the committees.

The RECORDS MANAGEMENT committee has 6 members so far and is chaired by Frank...N5EJX

The LIAISON committee has 4 members so far, and is chaired by Susan - KB5ICO.

The PUBLICITY committee has 3 members and is co-chaired by Steve - N5PRC and myself, N5APW.

The FACILITIES committee has 3 members and is co-chaired by Floyd - N5PXY and Cal - W2IQI

The OPERATIONS committee has 3 members and is co-chaired by Ken - W5BKK and Benton - K5HHX

Please listen to the B-VARC Monday night net for more details & updates.

Lastly, if you need additional information about any of these committees, thier functions or purpose, please call our President, Bill - N5KXU or ask away on the Monday night net. If you would like to volunteer, Please call the MD Anderson Amateur Radio Hotline at 792-6354 and leave your name, call-sign, Phone number, and the committee(s) you are volunteering to, and a chairperson will call you back with more details.

AGAIN, PLEASE HELP US MAKE THE 1990 WORLD ECONOMIC SUMMIT SPECIAL EVENTS STATION A BIG SUCCESS

73's N5APW