



B-VARC BULLETIN

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

Editor in Chief: Vincent Orlando, WA5ETS 774-7651 (0800-2100 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, WB5IGG, (713) 777-3345.

Volume: 14 Issue: 2

February 1991

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

B-VARC MEETING SCHEDULE

Thurs, Feb. 14 General Meeting
7:30 pm Missouri City Fire Station
*RACES, ARES, Emergency
Nets... by Bob White, KF5ZL*

Thurs, March 7 Board Meeting
7:30 pm Missouri City Fire Station

February 1991

B-VARC CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 7:00pm Harris County RACES 146.94	4 8:00pm ARES 147.30 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47	5 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00pm Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00pm AMSAT 146. 82	6 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)	7 7:30pm Board Meeting: Missouri City Fire Station #1	1 Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5 at Moose's, 6818 Chetwood	2 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
10 7:00pm Harris County RACES 146.94	11 8:00pm ARES 147.30 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47	12 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00pm Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00pm AMSAT 146. 82	13 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)	14 7:30pm General Meeting: Missouri City Fire Station #1 7:30pm Program: RACES, ARES, Emergency Nets	15 Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5 at Great Charcoal Chicken, 1000 Campbell Road	16 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
17 7:00pm Harris County RACES 146.94	18 8:00pm ARES 147.30 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47	19 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00pm Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00pm AMSAT 146. 82	20 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)	21	22 Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5 at Fuddrucker's, on Chimney Rock at Richmond	23 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
24 7:00pm Harris County RACES 146.94	25 8:00pm ARES 147.30 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47	26 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00pm Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00pm AMSAT 146. 82	27 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)	28		

Notes From The President . . .

by Al Mattis, N5AFV

Greetings to you again. This year has started off very well for our club. The annual banquet was a great success, and details of the banquet appear elsewhere in this bulletin. It was a wonderful opportunity to recognize a number of individual members for their contributions to B-VARC.

As of mid-January, approximately 85 club members had paid dues for 1991. A mailing to those 1990 members who had not yet renewed their membership for 1991 has been made, and we anticipate a large number of renewals coming in by the time this bulletin reaches you. We are well on our way to setting another membership record!

A number of committee appointments have been made are listed in this bulletin. A special thank you to those who have accepted these positions. We still have one very important area in which the club needs help. A program chairman is needed to plan and coordinate the programs for the general membership meetings. Several members have volunteered to serve on the Program Committee, but we still need a chairman for the committee. If anyone can help the club out in this regard, please contact me.

With the lack of a program chairman, I have arranged the program for the February meeting. The recent episodes of severe weather and the resulting 2-meter weather nets have caught the interest of some of our newer club members. I have heard a number of hams on the MERA repeater asking how they can get involved in RACES, ARES, weather nets, and related items. Our February 14th program By Bob White, KF5ZL, will address these subjects.

Before I close for this month, I want to give special recognition to Mel Thatcher, KB5ION. Mel has volunteered to do two important things for the club. Mel will check the club's mail box in Missouri City on a regular basis to ensure that any correspondence sent to that address will reach the appropriate club officers in a timely manner. As if that isn't enough, Mel will also help with the coffee pot at our general membership meetings. I'm sure Mel would appreciate any help on that task any of you might give him. Many of us enjoy the coffee, and if a few people share the work, it really lightens the load.

That's it for this month. Hope to see you at the February meeting.

77 de N5AFV

B-VARC RAG CHEW CHECK-INS 3.960 MHz 8:00 pm Wednesdays Compiled by Melvin Thatcher KB5ION

January 2, 1991

KB5ION NCS, AA5BD, N5ECP, KG5KV, N5MPN, WB5SRN, W5IHY, WB5IGG, N5QMY, KE5HE, N5PRC, N5JKY, KB5JIZ, WA5SCE, N5NVV, WN5A, N5AFV, KB5DNT

January 9, 1991

KB5ION NCS, N5MPN, AA5TB, WB5SRN, N5AFV, KG5KV, W5IHY, WB5IGG, N5KXU, N5QMY, WN5A, AA5BD

January 16, 1991

KB5ION NCS, N5AFV, K15AN, KK4ET, W5IHY, KB5IIL, W5JDK, KA0KPT, KG5KV, N5KXU, N5MPN

January 23, 1991

KB5ION NCS, KG5KV, N5MPN, KB5IIL, WN5A, N5SNA, N5KXU, W5IHY, AK5G, WB5SRN, KB5DNT, K15CE, WA5TWL, WB5IGG, N5AFV, WB5CVK, N5QCE, AA5BD

Treasurer's Report by Randy Pollard, AK5G

Balance	10-1-90	\$1,766.88
Balance	10-31-90	\$1,916.35
Balance	11-1-90	\$1,916.35
Balance	11-30-90	\$2,411.35
Balance	12-1-90	\$2,411.35
Balance	12-31-90	\$3,095.88

Please note: The actual cost of the banquet was \$17.00. If you paid \$18.00, please see Randy Pollard, AK5G, for a refund.

B-VARC Banquet and Awards Ceremony by Bill Dessens, N5KXU

Well, the B-VARC banquet held on January 10th at the Marriott Hotel is now history, but what a banquet it was! Comments keep coming in, mostly saying the same thing, that this is the way a ban-

quet really should be held. Several people also said that it was the nicest one that B-VARC has ever had. Not only was the turnout good, but the room was elegant, and the service and food were just excellent. Parking in the parking garage kept us from having to get out of our cars in the rainy weather that we were having. We have had no complaints at all of which I am aware. Many thanks to Suzanne, KB5BAY, and to Gerry, N5APW, for all their hard work. It was well organized and ran very smoothly.

A door prize was awarded to Beth Lamkin, who just happened to have the right plate with a sticker under it. Congratulations, Beth! And there were other awards.

First was the Dr. Bill Ossenfort Award, which is unique to B-VARC and which was initiated in 1988. This award was presented to Carl, AA5JW, as the outstanding Volunteer Examiner in the Houston Area. I was extremely happy to present this award to Carl because of his outstanding performance and participation in our VE program.

A special Appreciation Award was presented this year to Vincent, WA5ETS, for his dedication and service to B-VARC. I asked Harold, ND5F, to present this award, to which he graciously consented. Vincent has meant so much to our Club, not only for providing excellent facilities at Strake Jesuit for our exam programs and classes, but for his work in editing and publishing the B-VARC *Bulletin*. He is indeed a great asset to B-VARC. (Now, don't edit this out, Vincent!)

Allen, N5AFV, our new President, made a presentation of another award, the Loop and Zepp Award, to Mel, KB5ION. This is the second year that Allen has presented this award, which is made by the Manager of the HF Rag Chew Net. It is presented to the B-VARC Club Member who has done the most to encourage HF operations by other Club Members. For his hard work and dedication in this area, Mel truly deserves this award.

The final award was presented by Yours Truly, and was a great way to end a fantastic evening. This award is called the B-VARC Order of the Key, and was presented to Bill, N5MPN. Bill had several nominations for this award, and it was my pleasure as 1990 President to poll each of the 1990 Board Members and receive unanimous approval, as is required, and hear the praise heaped upon Bill. His contributions to our Club are numerous, including his

HF operations at local and international levels, his advice and physical assistance to new and old members of our Club, his propagation studies that have attracted so much attention by local, national and foreign hams, and much more. He also brought back something that some said was lost years ago, that being his planned innovative and varied monthly programs at our general membership meetings during 1990. It has been said by many people that these were the best programs in the Club's history. My everlasting respect, admiration and appreciation go to Bill, as he has been a real inspiration to us all. What a pleasure and privilege it was to present this award to him.

So, B-VARC ended 1990 with real STYLE, record membership, great programs, involvement by a record number of our folks, and topped off by THE BANQUET and all it had to offer. We are truly on a roll, and 1991 has all the makings of another truly great year for our Club. I know that I certainly feel privileged to be a continuing part of B-VARC.

73, Bill Dessens, N5KXU

February Membership Meeting

One of the purposes for which B-VARC was founded in 1977 was to provide emergency communications to Fort Bend and adjacent Harris Counties. Over the last fourteen years, the role of our club has changed, and official RACES groups have now been formed to perform emergency communications functions. What role can B-VARC members play when our community faces an emergency?

Our program at the February meeting will re-examine our club's "roots." Our speaker will be B-VARC member Bob White, KF5ZL, who is currently the State RACES District Radio Officer for a fifteen county area. He is also the District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) for ARES for a five-county area.

Bob will tell us about RACES at the state, county and city levels. He will also answer questions such as: What is ARES, and how does it fit into the picture? How can our club members become active in these groups? Please join us on February 14, 1991, at 7:30 pm at the Missouri City Fire Station to learn how you can use your amateur radio hobby to help our community.

March *Bulletin* Deadline

Articles and other material destined to be printed in the March issue of the B-VARC *Bulletin* should be submitted by no later than February 24th. Please give such to Vincent Orlando WA5ETS; 8900 Bellaire Boulevard; Houston, Texas 77036-4699 or FAX (713) 774-6427.

Summary of 1990

B-VARC sponsored Amateur Examinations on the second Tuesday night of every month during 1990. Our V.E. Teams administered twelve (12) ARRL VEC Amateur Radio Examination Sessions at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston. We also provided examiners for B-VARC's two Novice Classes and the special Sunday morning session at the Sheraton Crown Hotel during the Houston Ham-Comm.

A total of 481 exam elements were administered during the past year to 254 applicants. Of those, 53 received their new licenses and 106 others upgraded by passing 312 elements. The overall "pass rate" was an impressive 75% for the year.

These statistics indicate that the activity during 1990 was slightly less than the preceding year; however, the number of new licenses issued increased dramatically by 47%.

Many thanks to all the Team Members and Assistants who volunteer their valuable time and effort each month. You all have made a significant contribution to B-VARC's great success this past year.

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.

We will be looking forward to another great year during 1991. 73's ... ND5F

A Recap of the Amateur Exam Program

by Harold Parker, ND5F

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, January 8, 1991, at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

The V.E. Team

Keith Huger, KA5F
Harold Parker, ND5F
Randy Pollard, AK5G

Assistants

Carl Albrecht, AA5JW
Cass Germany, KG5IT
Irene Gordon, K5AYX
Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG
Jim Pettit, WA5YKR
Rick Rule, KI5HC

A total of twenty-two (22) exams were administered during the evening to fourteen (14) applicants. Two (2) unlicensed candidates received new licenses: one (1) Novice and one (1) Technician. Three (3) other candidates upgraded their licenses with a total of twelve (12) elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was fifty-five (55%) percent.

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

Mary Rose Agustin — Element 1A
John Ashmore — Novice
Michael Chambers, N5QCE — Element 1B
Steve Hovater, KB5OAZ — Advanced
Lester Kendall, N5PEX — Extra
Jim King — Element 2
Kelvin Lyons — Technician
John Overmeyer, KB5OHP — Technician
John Paquette, N5RBD — Element 4A
Jesse Tovar — Element 2

Marathon Warm-Up Series Communications

by Al Mattis N5AFV

This past year was the fourth year in which B-VARC provided communications for the Gulf Association of the Athletic Conference (GAAC) Marathon Warm-Up Series of 20K, 25K and 30K races held the second Saturdays of October, November and December. This annual B-VARC activity helps the race officials conduct safe and successful events.

Houston is the only city in the nation to host a series of races for all three distances. Other cities offer races for one or two of those distances, but never all three. The Warm-Up Series may soon surpass the

Houston Tenneco Marathon as the most prestigious running event in the city. This past year the 20K ranked fourth in the nation (1,317 finishers), the 25K ranked third (1,444 finishers), and the 30K was the largest race of that distance in the United States (1,456 finishers).

B-VARC can be proud of its contribution to the Warm-Up Series. This past year, a total of 39 B-VARC members worked one or more of these races. The GAAC has made special commemorative mugs available to members of our club who work all three races. This year the following club members worked at all three races:

- AJ Blackwell — WB5YLB
- Robert Carlson — N5RBE
- Marion Chambers
- Mike Chambers — N5QCE
- Steve Deaktor — WA3PMT
- Steve Dunkelberger — N5JBL
- Al Mattis — N5AFV
- Henry Morrison — W5RIY
- Randy Pollard — AK5G
- Don Wade — WB5IBT
- Mike Warden — WB3HZP

A special thank you to the GAAC for making these mugs available to us, and thank you also to the 39 club members who supported this activity.

The 1991 Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (B-VARC) officers include Al Mattis as president. After serving as VP and a member of the Board, Al will move into the head slot of this very community-minded group. You should see their list of public service events in addition to the Warm-Up Series and the Marathon. (Al informs us that 11 members volunteered for all three runs of the Warm-Up Series, and these members will be presented their mugs at their January meeting.) Congratulations, Al, and the very best to you and your group for the coming year.

Reprinted from the January Newsletter of the Houston Masters Sports Association

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B-VARC 1991 Committees & Appointments
 by Al Mattis N5AFV

A number of club members have volunteered to help B-VARC by serving on committees and performing special functions. Please thank these people for their efforts, and help them whenever you can. I know that I speak for all the officers when I thank these members for helping make B-VARC so successful.

Net Managers

- Public Service Net Gerry Borg, N5APW
- Rag Chew Net Mel Thatcher, KB5ION

Technical Advancement

- Novice/Technician Classes Glenn Edwards, WB4LZG
 Gerry Borg, N5APW
- Initial Coordinator Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG
- Volunteer Exam Program Harold Parker, ND5F
 Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG

B-VARC Bulletin

- Editor Vincent Orlando, WA5ETS
- Advertising Steve Gottlieb, WA5OEN

Club Activities

- Field Day Randy Pollard, AK5G
 Jack Van Demark, WN5A
- Picnic Victor Richard, N5NAS
- Public Service Events Steve Dunkelberger, N5JBL

Membership

- Roster, Name Tags Don Wade, WB5IBT

Committees & Special Services

- Audit Committee Earle Herbert, WB1CCH
 Charles Prochaska, KG5KV
- Award Rules Committee Bill Dessens, N5K
- ARRL Liaison Stu Lamkin, WB5L
- Parliamentarian Dick Kruse, N5OUT

**1991 B-VARC
PUBLIC SERVICE HONOR ROLL**
Compiled by Stephen Dunkelberger N5JBL

A. Houston Tenneco Marathon

Borg, Gerry	N5APW	A
Chambers, Michael	N5QCE	A
Cheek, Ralph	N5DNT	A
Dillard, Ray	WA5F	A
Dunkleberger, Steve	N5JBL	A
Edwards, Glenn	WB4LZG	A
Edwards, Susan	KB5ICO	A
Freedenberg, Henry	N5HF	A
Garland, Trey	KB5OEE	A
Gordon, Hy	NC5A	A
Gordon, Irene	N5AYX	A
Hagerman, Dick	WB5SRN	A
Levy, Larry	WD5DRB	A
Morrison, Henry	W5RIY	A
Nance, Herb	N5GZW	A
Orlando, Vincent	WA5ETS	A
Parker, Harold	ND5F	A
Shirk, Steven	KB5OLF	A
Stanley, Tim	N5PHM	A
Van Demark, Jack	WN5A	A
Wade, Don	WB5IBT	A
Warden, Mike	WB3HZP	A
Welch, Bob	KE5IC	A
White, Bob	KF5ZL	A
Winford, Clem	WB5SHU	A

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