



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: 3

March 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, March 14 General Meeting
7:30 pm Missouri City Fire Station
Helium Balloon Experiments by
Andy MacAllister, WA5ZIB

Thurs, April 4 Board Meeting
7:30 pm Missouri City Fire Station

March 1991

B-VARC CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:00pm Harris County RACES 146.94 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	4 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County RACES Net 145.47 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 6:30pm RACES AMTOR Net 7.090 7:30pm Board Meeting: Missouri City Fire Station #1	1 Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5/145.47	2 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Houston Emergency Management Net 146.84 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
10 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:00pm Harris County RACES 146.94 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	11 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County RACES Net 145.47 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47	12 7:00pm Amateur Exams (Stroke Jesuit College Prep) 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	15 Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5/145.47	16 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 8:00am Side-walk Sale 9:00am Houston Emergency Management Net 146.84 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
17 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:00pm Harris County RACES 146.94 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	18 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County RACES Net 145.47 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 442.5/145.47	23 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Houston Emergency Management Net 146.84 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
24 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:00pm Harris County RACES 146.94 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	25 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County RACES Net 145.47 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 7:30pm West Side Social	29 Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5/145.47	30 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Houston Emergency Management Net 146.84 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
31 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:00pm Harris County RACES 146.94 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873						

Notes From The President . . .

by Al Mattis, N5AFV

Greetings to you again. March has come, and with it our usual spring weather. Last month's B-VARC program by Bob White, KF5ZL, on RACES, ARES, and emergency communications was timed to fill club members in on the current state of these subjects just prior to our spring severe weather season. In a similar manner, this month's program has been scheduled to provide information about an upcoming amateur radio event. An announcement of the program appears elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

As of late February, we have 136 club members. A roster listing these members is enclosed with this month's B-VARC *Bulletin*. Any errors in the roster should be reported to Don Wade, WB5IBT. Don is the club's corresponding secretary, and one of his principal duties is to keep B-VARC's membership list.

Attendance at B-VARC's Saturday morning breakfast has increased, and recent Saturdays have seen more than 20 club members and friends gather for this long-standing club tradition. If you listen to the MERA repeater, you've probably heard about these get togethers. Come join the fun, and find out for yourself why the breakfast group has been talking about strawberries and whipped cream. The group meets at approximately 8 am at the Denny's located on the Highway 59 inbound service road just east of Gessner.

The club's nets have been experiencing high levels of participation. The Monday evening Public Service Net is a good place to keep up on activities of interest to amateur radio operators in our area. The Rag Chew Net on Wednesday evening continues to attract a number of out-of-state check-ins, and our club members enjoy working these stations.

Steve Shirk, N5SDL (ex-KB5OLF), has been appointed to the position of program chairman for the B-VARC meetings. Steve will be contacting a number of you to assist him in this endeavor; please lend a hand if he calls you.

In a similar manner, if you have any suggestions or ideas regarding programs, please contact Steve (phone 933-4737). We want to continue the growth and success the club has enjoyed during the past few years, so help us out if you can.

The 1991 B-VARC Audit Committee has completed its audit of the club's 1990 treasurer's records.

Committee chairman Earle Herbert, WB1CCH, and Charles Prochaska, KG5KV, comprised the committee. Treasurer Randy Pollard, AK5G, turned the records over to them, and after a thorough examination, the committee concluded that the club's 1990 financial affairs were in order.

Thank you to Earle and Charlie for performing this task for the club, and to Randy for making all records available in a timely manner.

At its February 7th meeting, the B-VARC Board of Directors appointed Ralph Cheek, KB5DNT, to fill the vacant one-year term on the Board of Directors. Ralph has been an active club member for the past several years, and we look forward to having him on the board.

The B-VARC Board of Directors meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Missouri City Fire Station. The board meetings are open, and all club members are welcome to attend and express their opinions on the matters that come before the board.

Before I close for this month, I want to again express my gratitude to all of the club members who are helping with our large and diverse schedule of activities. These people are largely responsible for making B-VARC the successful club that we all enjoy. Please also express your gratitude to these people, and pitch in and help if asked — you'll find that it's fun!

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

73 de N5AFV

Results of the February 12th Exam

by Harold Parker, ND5F

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, February 12, 1991, at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

The V.E. Team

George Jolly, ND5E
Henry Morrison, W5RIY
Harold Parker, ND5F

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

January 30, 1991

KB5ION NCS, N5ECP, N5MPN, WN5A, N5AFV,
N5KXU, WA5PWL, N5QCE, W5RIY, WA5SJV,
N5SNA, AK5G

February 6, 1991

WN5A NCS, W5IHY, KG5KV, WA5SCE, N5MPN,
WB5SRN, N5KXU, KB5ION, N5AFV, WB5IGG, KB5IIL

February 13, 1991

KB5ION NCS, KB5IIL, WN5A, AK5G, KG5KV,
N5MPN, W5IHY, WB5IGG, WA5SCE, N5QMY,
KB5DNT, N5PRC, N5AFV, N5JVL, W6NEG

February 20, 1991

KB5ION NCS, KB5IIL, N5AFV, N5MPN, WA5TWL,
WB5IGG, WB5SRN, N5SNA, KB5DNT, WB5EBT,
N5KXU

Assistants

Carl Albrecht, AA5JW
Cass Germany, KG5IT
Irene Gordon, K5AYX
Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG
Tony Stevens, N5LSQ

A total of forty-one (41) exams were administered during the evening to twenty-one (21) applicants. Three (3) unlicensed candidates received new licenses: one (1) Technician and two (2) General Class. Ten (10) other candidates upgraded their licenses with a total of thirty (30) elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was seventy-three (73%) percent.

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

John Ashmore, KB5OTQ — Technician
Robert Brigham — General
John Bumgardner, KB5MVG — General
Michael Chambers, N5QCE — General
Terrell Dailey — Technician
Marion Eicher, KB5IIL — General
Paul Flesher — General
Steven Hovater, KB5OAZ — Extra
Sarah Hunt, KB5EEI — Technician
Gil Lappay, N5RZX — Element 1C
Marcus Leuchter, KF5OE — Extra
Robert Littler, WA5PSH — Extra
Marc Newman — Element 2 + 3A
Jonathan Reise, WA9JBR — Advanced
Jay Rubens, K15MD — Element 4B

Frank Sanders — Element 2 + 3A
Michael Steffen — Element 3A
Richard Vessell, N5RZK — General

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.

73's ... ND5F

NI5I 442.325 Repeater On The Air!

by Vincent Orlando, WA5ETS

The 442.325 NI5I repeater is up and running. Located atop Memorial Southwest Hospital, this repeater boasts excellent range and a phone patch with speed dial capability. It is intended that both the repeater and the patch remain open for use by any amateurs who have the required privileges and equipment.

To bring up the patch, dial the code 501 and listen for the dial tone. Then dial your number.

To bring the patch down, dial the code #51 which should trigger the message "Phone Patch Clear".

Please do NOT dial 911 on this repeater because the call could result in the police being dispatched to the hospital by mistake. Instead use one of the following emergency speed dial numbers:

680	Poison Control Center
681	Houston EMS
682	Houston Police Department
683	Harris County Sheriff
684	Dept of Public Safety - Highway Patrol
685	Fort Bend County Sheriff
686	Fort Bend County EMS
687	Fort Bend County EOC

When your call is complete, please be sure to bring down the patch. Enjoy it, and let's keep this repeater and patch open for all to use! 73's

B-VARC Board of Directors Meeting Action & Comments, February 7th, 1991

by Dick Kruse, N5OUT, Recording Secretary

Cash on hand in the club treasury is \$2,847.39.

Ralph Cheek, KB5DNT, was elected to fill the one-year director's position on the Board.

A letter has been mailed to former B-VARC members encouraging them to renew their membership for 1991. Approximately 130 persons have paid dues to date.

Steve Shirk, KB5OLF, was appointed to be Program Chairman for 1991.

Earle Herbert, WB1CCH, and Charley Prochaska, KG5KV, audited the B-VARC books for 1990, and all was in order.

In addition to *The Dr. Bill Award* and *The Order of the Key*, the Board decided to make the *Loop and Zep Award* an official B-VARC award to be given annually.

There was an average of fourteen check-ins to the Rag Chew Net this year, three of which were out-of-state. Thirty-three different stations have checked in so far in 1991.

The 442.345 machine has been installed on Memorial Southwest Hospital. Chuck, N15I, is trustee, however it falls under the M.E.R.A. umbrella. 911 and 1+ calls are blocked out. A phone patch is available and speed codes for the Police, Sheriff, etc., will be published elsewhere in the *Bulletin* along with operating instructions.

Party 97 of the FCC Rules and Regulations will be thoroughly studied to make sure there are no violations of the rules during the "For Sale" or "Swap" portion of the Public Service Net.

The club is looking into using Bulk Mail and Bar Codes for the B-VARC *Bulletin* mailout.

A copy of the B-VARC *Bulletin* will be mailed to all advertisers in the *Bulletin*.

New name tags are in the process of being made.

The next Novice class will begin March 11, 1991, and will be held on Monday nights at Strake Jesuit. Approximately 95% of those in the Novice class who pass the Novice test also pass the Technician test within 30 days of completing the class.

April *Bulletin* Deadline

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

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

Please report corrections or additions to N5JBL

March Meeting

by Bill Todd-Brown, N5MPN

It is a well known fact that hams like to experiment. Some are successful, most are not. A few of the more successful ones capture the imagination and interest of not only other hams, but the public at large. One of these experiments is the subject of our March membership meeting.

A little better than 3 months ago, the fruits of many peoples' efforts were realized. To say that it was a success would be an understatement.

Andy MacAllister, WA5ZIB, will be the speaker at the March 14th meeting and will also have a composite video tape of several amateur camcorder tapes relative to the launch, flight and eventual shooting down of the instrument package. The Helium Balloon Experiment was launched at Huntsville, Texas, and eventually came down near Beaumont, Texas.

Andy designed and built most of the instrument package that was carried by the balloon. The transmissions from that flight were copied by hams in Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana, with some in Arkansas. Another, more elaborate, experiment is being readied for an April launch. It is very sophisticated, and Andy will fill us in on the plans for it as well as tell us about the design, launch, flight and eventual "shoot down" of the one that was conducted in December.

Andy has spoken to B-VARC before (and we are going to make him keep coming back until he gets it right!). Many of you know Andy as a vice-president of the national AMSAT organization. Well, not only has he won international recognition for his pioneering work on satellites but has now "made his mark" on balloon flights.

So, for a first-class program on something new and something that we all can participate in, either directly, or at home by "tuning in", come out to the B-VARC March membership meeting at the Missouri City Fire Station at 7:30 pm on March 14th.

There will be plenty of free parking and coffee.

73, Bill — N5MPN



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Mike Eason - N5KRU

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**1991 ATTENDANCE ROSTER
B-VARC GENERAL MEETINGS**

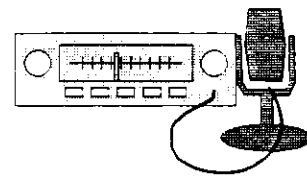
		Feb
	Darlene Bowman	✓
KB5777	Marion Chambers	✓
	Kathy Edwards	✓
	Carl Hacker	✓
	Eddie Heikkila	✓
	Michael Howard	✓
	Terri McRae	✓
	Lawrence Whitehead	✓
	Jack Van Demark	✓
WN5A	Al Mattis	✓
N5AFV	Gerry Borg	✓
N5APW	Emmett Jackson	✓
N5BZN	Elton Kytile	✓
NO5C	Larry Stenger	✓
KG5CE	Ken McAninch	✓
KA5DKS	Ralph Cheek	✓
KB5DNT	Dick Bigelow	✓
WD5CTQ	Robert Bengert	✓
WA2EJO	Vincent Orlando	✓
WA5ETS	Harold Parker	✓
ND5F	Clint Gilliland	✓
N5FNA	Terry Onda	✓
KI5FO	Randy Pollard	✓
AK5G	Mike Strong	✓
KT5H	Susan Edwards	✓
KB5ICO	Stu Lamkin	✓
WB5IGG	Lou Kronberg	✓
W5IHY	Melvin Thatcher	✓
KB5ION	Carl Albrecht	✓
AA5JW	Charles Prochaska	✓
KG5KV	Bill Dessens	✓
N5KXU	Roger Pokladnik	✓
KB5LFU	Glenn Edwards	✓
WB4LZG	Bill Todd-Brown	✓
N5MPN	Eddie Runner, Jr.	✓
KB5OBB	Stephen Shirk	✓
KB5OLF	Ron Shorthose	✓
N5PHL	Steven Deaktor	✓
WA3PMT	Eddie Runner, Sr.	✓
N5PNX	Michael Chambers	✓
N5QCE	Jordan Kossack	✓
N5QVI	Sharon Grimes	✓
N5RQO	Richard Bearden	✓
N5RYZ	Ron Grimes	✓
WA5SCE	Chuck Taylor	✓
WB5VYR	Branson Abbott	✓
KF5VZ	Rick Meyer	✓
KA5YSL	Bob White	✓
KF5ZL	TOTAL:	48

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